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communities in ACTION

THE INVISIBLE SIDE OF VERMONT

communities in ACTION
VOL. 4 JUNE-JULY 1968

a periodical account of the War on Poverty, published by the Community Action Program of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

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Cover photo: Poverty in Vermont, by Ralph Matthews, Jr.

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THE INVISIBLE SIDE OF VERMONT

Vermont in Autumn, as in most of New England, is all pretty reds and yellows as its foliage readies for the long white night of winter.

Vermont, in tourist eyes in any season, is an endlessly unfolding packet of "wish you were here" Kodachrome post cards.

So italicized "pretty" you do not believe it! Vermont, from its highways, looks that good. You want to stop your car and more closely study woodlands, hamlets nestled in valleys of green mountains, frame houses, church spires, covered bridges, country bake shops.

Here even death has its charm. Graveyard tombstones do not intimidate but instead reassure. Reading that "Here lies Ephraim Snow, 1749-1779" we know indeed we have a past and a future and that the nation was not founded on sand but atop rock.

And yes, even rocks in New England have a special luminescence — greeny-grays, purply-pinks — that dot the expressways like jewels spilled from a giantess' necklace.

Beautiful, picturesque, historic, maply syrupy New England . . .

Until you turn off the highways.

Until you stumble onto certain back roads.

Until you are led by Community Action workers into that sparseness of land and spirit that contradicts the cameo beauty of New England.

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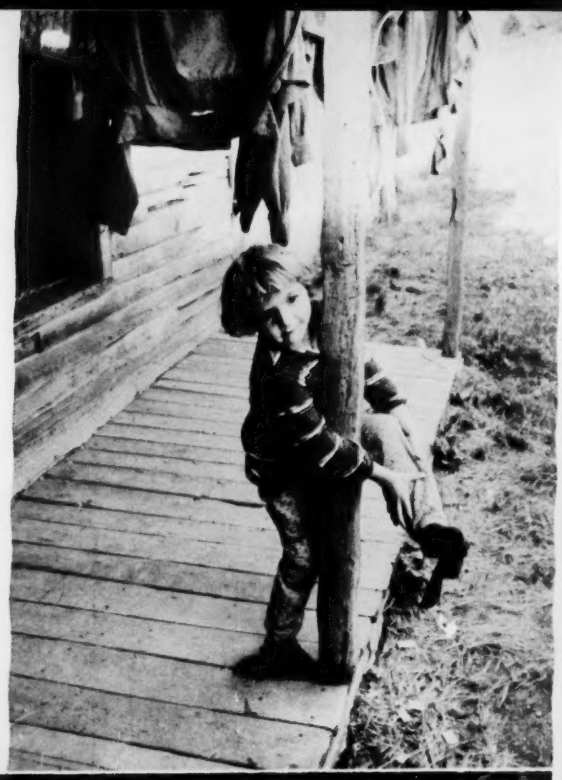
how one state fights poverty



Once New England's invisible poverty materializes before your eyes, your tourist wonder goes to ice and no matter that people in Watts have troubles, and West Virginia coal miners have troubles, and reservation Indians have troubles and New Mexico migrant workers have troubles. . . .

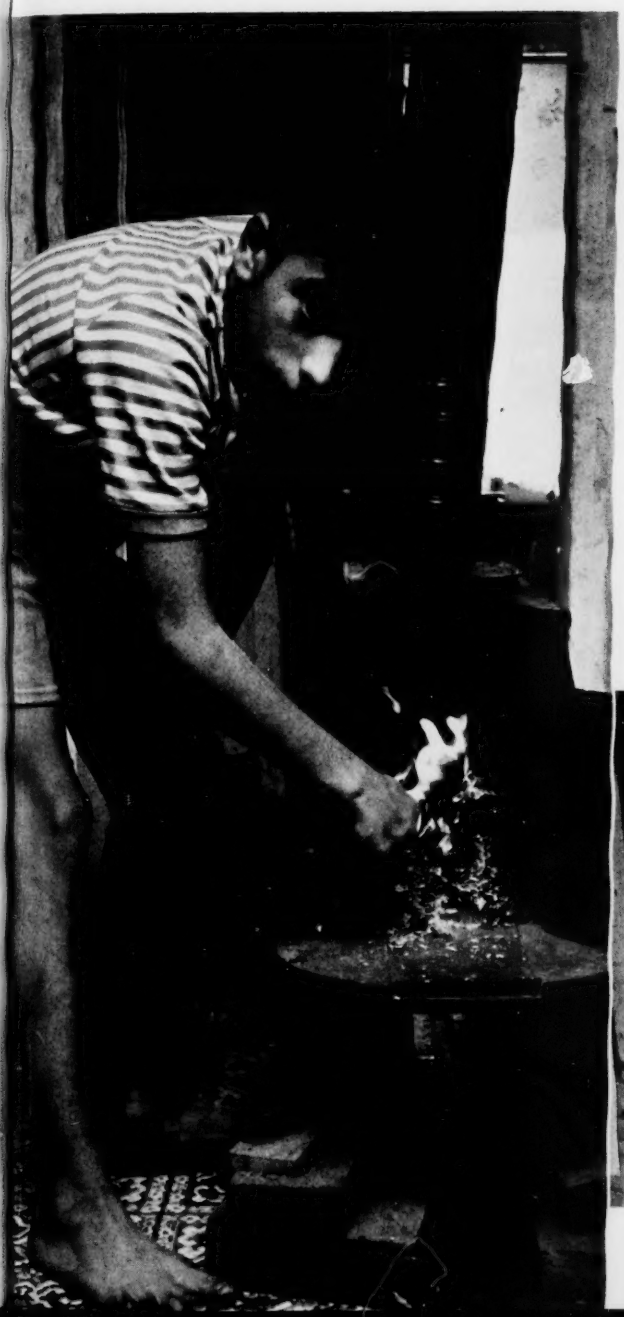
Here in the rugged land of our founders, the troubles of poverty have raged in isolated and sullen anguish for a much longer time than we dare admit . . . this, after all, is where much of what we are was formed.

Vermont's hidden poverty is such a scene as this little girl waiting for winter in an old farmhouse without glass in the windows. She, her three sisters, baby brothers and parents subsist on welfare allotments. Twenty-two percent of the families in the state have total annual incomes of less than $3,000.

A few blocks from Vermont's gold-domed state capitol in Montpelier, this boy tends a wood-burning stove that is his home's sole source of heat.

1960 Census defined 8,543 occupied Vermont housing units as dilapidated and an additional 22,836 dwellings as deteriorating.

"That's funny, they promised to be here," a Whiting, Vt., CAP volunteer worker said when no one answered her knock. "I guess they were embarassed to let strangers see how poorly they live; something's on the stove, so I guess they just up and took off."



"I hope you won't have to wait much longer to start building," Bea Jones, a Morrisville, Vt., Community Action aide, said hopefully to the disabled man who receives welfare assistance but through the Central Vermont Community Action Council's self-help housing program was now on the waiting list to erect a new home. Present dwelling is a tenant farm shack. The average state family welfare allotment is $103.63 monthly.

But changes are taking place.

"I have long advocated that our state be utilized as a laboratory by O.E.O."

Governor Philip H. Hoff of Vermont boldly envisions the Green Mountain state as a self-contained model of Community Action, in an interview.

CIA: Governor Hoff, you have urged that Vermont be a laboratory for anti-poverty programs, that your state be a model for other states. Would you brief us on this concept?

Gov. Hoff: Well, essentially what I'm talking about here is the size of the state itself, although there are other factors as well. We have a relatively small population. Therefore, it is popular in this state to deal with people on a first hand basis and as I see it this is really the clue to the poverty program anyway.

I'm very much for that philosophical approach to the poverty program in that we should help people to help themselves. In short, the thing I fear more than anything else about our poverty programs in this country is that we will lose the aspect of involving the poor themselves in being a major factor in programs and plans to do away with poverty. Unless we can put them up on the firing line it seems to me that we're just going to continue this method of just sort of doling out money to people in unfortunate circumstances and never give them an opportunity to bring themselves up by the bootstraps. I'm not suggesting that they do it alone, but I am suggesting that it's very important that they may be involved despite the difficulty of it. Within this sense then, it seems that we have a unique opportunity here in the State of Vermont because no other state I know of is small enough and has close enough contact with its people to accomplish it.

CIA: We have seen the first homes for low-income families built under Vermont's self-help housing program. This seems a most helpful program. Would you comment?

Gov. Hoff: Once again, it gets back to the basic philosophy of the whole poverty program, and that's simply that if we're going to make this successful we must help these people do the job themselves. They must be heavily involved in every step. This is why I'm so encouraged by this program because this is essentially a self-help program. We have helped but they have done the job.

CIA: How do you see relationships between State and Federal Antipoverty efforts to date?

Gov. Hoff: Well, I think that it's beginning to be encouraging. Initially, in honesty when the poverty program started there was a lack of realism on the part of some of the Federal agencies that were involved in that they were going to set very harsh guidelines and that we were going to have to operate within them and in this sense they really didn't differentiate between rural poverty and urban poverty. We're seeing quite a shift in this. I think bit by bit we're beginning to realize that if we're going to effectively do the job then we must work together. So if we

approach it in this way and stop looking upon the Federal government as some sort of green-eyed dragon and recognize that we have a joint job to do, I think it could be quite successful.

CIA: Vermont is building a network of community service centers to help the poor. Do you think this will have any significant impact?

Gov. Hoff: It's too early to tell, but I am convinced that if we handle them right and particularly, incidentally, if we will review each one of them from time to time to see what has worked and what has not, and not be afraid to discard those things that have not worked and to concentrate on those that have, I think they could be a very vital thing.

I'd be the first to say, however, that at this point it's too early to tell. But, again, going back to my very strong feeling that if we're going to conquer this problem the strength must come from the people themselves involved in poverty themselves, I look upon this as the right kind of approach.

CIA: Governor Hoff, finally, what plans does Vermont have to stem the flow of rural persons into urban areas a problem Vermont shares with many other states?

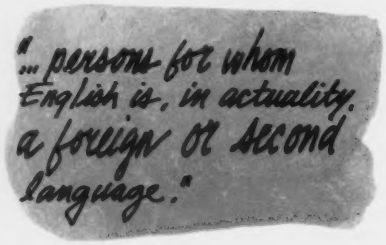
Gov. Hoff: Well, it's the same problem, really, in terms of people all over the country. What happens is that you get people in deprived circumstances so that they don't have the educational background, particularly, in order to obtain the kind of jobs that are available in the state of Vermont or any other rural area. Unless we can break that cycle, they're going to continue to flood to the urban areas of our country, in fact, the urban areas of the world, with a sort of forlorn hope that somehow their problems may be righted in those areas . . . which we know cannot be done.

So I think it incumbent upon us here in the state of Vermont to move forward very heavily with our poverty program to break this vicious cycle, to try to develop the attitudes, the educational ambitions and opportunities so that they can occupy a rightful role in the State of Vermont. If we can train people — if they can bring themselves up in an educated sense, develop the skills and what have you, there's no question that we could utilize them right here in the State of Vermont. This is what I'd like to do.

Vermont's Governor details the state's role in the War on Poverty in testimony given before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture

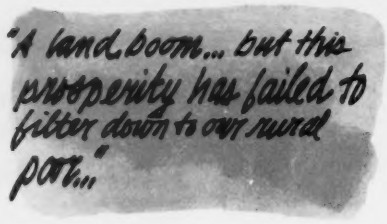
We in Vermont are undergoing a cultural and economic metamorphosis that, while by no means unique, is perhaps more apparent in our State than in others.

Our transition from a pastoral, agrarian climate to a more urban-oriented culture began 35 years ago when the nation's economy was at its nadir.



It began with the abandonment of marginally operated farms and the migration, both to the cities and out of the State, by the children of these farmers.

The consolidation of farms has continued unabated with rural landowners now parceling off their holdings to ski



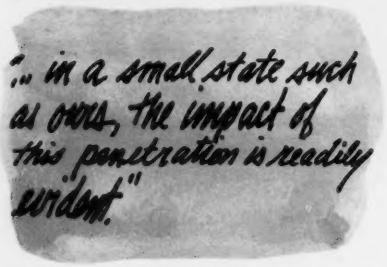
areas and vacation resorts. A land boom, of vest pocket proportions, exists in many areas of our State, but this prosperity has failed to filter down to our rural poor.

When the larger landowners sell or speculate with their holdings, taking land out of production or diminishing their dairy herds, the impact is most severely felt by farm workers and their families.

Children are forced to drop out of school to help support a household whose single and uniform attribute seems to be the ability to proliferate.

I have long advocated that our State be utilized as a laboratory by the Office of Economic Opportunity.

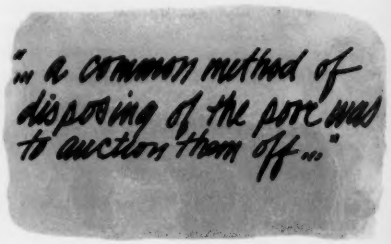
What I am suggesting in advocating this laboratory approach is that OEO programs can be more effectively administered and their results more accurately assessed because of the unique nature of our rural poverty programs and problems.



It is more self contained, for example, than the population of Appalachia. There are no "generation gaps" such as those found in the rural South. They are less mobile than the rural poor of the Plain States; they are more accessible than the Indian families of the Mountain States. In short, it is my feeling that by regarding Vermont as a self-contained single OEO unit, the federal programs undertaken here could be most measurably effective while, at the same time, functioning as prototypical and possibly establishing guidelines for other areas of the country where problems may be more complex.

Coupled with the sparse population in our northern tier is a genuine language problem. Many of our people in this area are of French-Canadian extraction and are persons for whom English is, in actuality, a foreign or second language.

While many of these children do not come from disadvantaged families per se, their difficulties in assimilation threaten to place them outside the educational mainstream.



It is not unusual, for example, particularly in our smaller schools, to find a second or third grade pupil who is failing simply because he or she cannot speak English.

The depth of penetration is increasing daily and, in a small state such as ours, the impact of this penetration is readily evident.

If you allow us to determine our own priorities and to structure our programs within more flexible federal guidelines, we can, in turn promise an optimum return on what I believe is the greatest human investment made in the history of civilization.

When we started thinking about Community Action in Vermont, shortly after the passage of the Economic Opportunity Act, we saw that the definition of "community" was unclear in a rural area.

In Vermont a community generally means that small area where you do daily shopping or go to church or school.

It seemed that we should organize on a countywide basis. However, the population of our counties was found to be too small to really structure any kind of viable organization.

We decided to split into regional jurisdictions. Actually, county lines mean virtually nothing in New England. Suddenly they meant something because one county would have to merge with another in equitable distribution not only in terms of representation of the poor, but by geography as well.

Then we had the complicated program of trying to find a way to coordinate five Community Action Agencies with five different philosophies and program emphases, with one central state-administered program such as the vocational rehabilitation program, the social welfare department or the employment security people.

There were no local private efforts that tied in naturally; there were regional offices but they were all different. And if you put them all on a map at the same time, it looked like spaghetti.

In the spring of 1967 we hit on the idea of a community service center in terms of something that should be developed by the CAAs for their particular community locale.

The important part of the development of this program on a statewide basis is the coordinative aspect—in other words, if a social welfare worker wanted to, she could stop by at a CSC for information or directives.

Broader than this is the idea that you can't speak to the question of urban problems without taking a hard look at what's happening in rural America. What do we do?

It's Vermont's policy, which should be developed into national policy, I think, to find ways to make rural America as good a place to live in terms of services and opportunities as the central city.

In a national sense, we've got to find a way to stop the flow of people from the deep South—or deep North for that matter—into the cities, by bringing services out to the people.

Through the CSC we hope to meet this problem. We hope to develop rural areas and still preserve those parts we like—natural beauty and all that. But we do want the kind of economic development where all the people of the state can participate in this new growth and affluence and not just perpetuate the same old thing with the poor just going into the cities and ending up in a welfare situation.

"WE ALL SEEM TO AGREE THAT COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTERS ARE EXCELLENT FOUNDATIONS FOR RURAL CAAS TO BUILD UPON."
Tom Davis,
State OEO Director, tells where antipoverty programs are going.

An Energetic, Compassionate Vermont Housewife on Welfare Tells How She Raised High the Roofbeams.

Community aides are all sorts of people. One dynamic rural Vermont woman rallied a half a dozen poverty-line families together to build themselves new ranch homes in a self-help housing project coordinated through the Morrisville Community Service Center.

Bea Jones was one of nine children in a welfare family. She finished high school and worked. Married now and with nine children of her own, she was forced to live on welfare again despite her husband's efforts to provide for the family.

Bea knew her people — people in situations like hers — and she tried to help them. A local antipoverty worker, Rev. John Nutting, suggested she get a job.

"I told him he was out of his mind!" Bea said. "Then he told me about a community aide job for 20 hours a week doing just what I was used to. You see, my husband and I had always taken in folks who needed a place to stay at night or a meal or something to wear — we just called it being neighborly."

Soon, however, Bea was putting in 40 hours, then 50, so the agency decided to put her on full-time pay and established her with an office in her home.

Today, Bea is also a consultant on out-of-state CA training sessions.

The Central Vermont Community Action Council serves three counties that Bea visits. With some 75,700 inhabitants in more than 100 villages and "gores" the declining industries of lumbering, potash, granite quarrying and dairy farming don't provide much employment incentive.

Result: no money, poor housing.

Here's the blueprint history on how self-help housing moved residents of quaking frame farmhouses and tarpaper shacks into warm, modern homes—all done on their own steam with Bea Jones' fire:

Six families living in deteriorated rural housing got together late last autumn to build new, all-electric three-bedroom homes as a result of Vermont's OEO-coordinated self-help housing program.

The families learned of the much-needed construction procedure through Mrs. Bea Jones of Morrisville who works for the Central Vermont Community Action Council (CVCAC), an OEO-funded agency.

CVCAC initiated the self-help housing fund obtained through the Farmers Home Administration for a total of $56,000 on September 1, 1967.

The FHA includes in its stipulations that a group

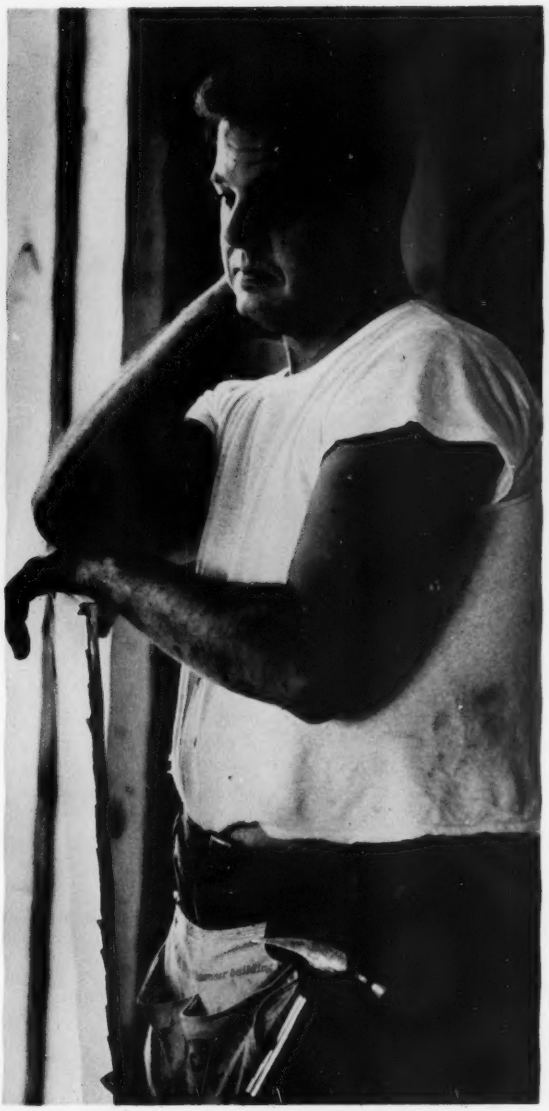
of six or more low-income families may apply for long-term loans to erect housing built by the families themselves, aided by an OEO technical supervisor, and built within the same geographical area, in this case, a five- to ten-mile radius.

The family heads earn less than $3,000 per year performing carpentry, truck driving and the like, and could not build the homes—which cost from $8,000 to $10,000 through the FHA plan—for the normal cost of $16,000. They will repay the loans for the cash cost of the homes and the land over a 33-year period at five percent annual interest.

Under most circumstances, the homes are constructed at the same rate—cellar holes are dug at the same time, then first fioors are erected—though the Morrisville group completed an entire home first to learn the process.

The Morrisville project is the first in the state and by the time the snow fell these Lamoille County citizens moved in. Governor Philip H. Hoff strongly supports the self-help housing program as a vital to rural Vermont, and foresees its expansion into every rural sector.

The families represent Vermont's "invisible" poor, isolated at the ends of a country road network seldom travelled by the casual tourist who visits Vermont for its spectacular autumn foliage or famed ski resorts.



In Brandon, Supposedly Hyper-Proud Elderly Vermonters Responded Enthusiastically to the Foster Grandparents Program to Bolster the Staff of a School for Retarded Youngsters

How did a Brandon (Vermont) Training School supervisor get the older residents of that introverted town to be Foster Grandparents to dozens of retarded youngsters?

These older New Englanders, poor but proud, just living out their days, turned out to be much easier to reach than anyone imagined.

At the clean, modern school, Mrs. Genevieve Marx talked about the recruitment and running of the FGP program that now buttresses her overworked staff:

"I think at first they were a bit apprehensive about the type of children they'd be working with. They'd confused mental retardation with mental illness.

"Getting Foster Grand*fathers* was important as well. The children—the little boys—need men around them in a field dominated by women nurses and so on. The men have skills assumed prior to retirement that interest the boys, like woodworking, and they love having the opportunity to teach them now.

"Of course, the men were harder to orient to FGP. Women have more to do with children all through their lives. Then, men hadn't even had much to do with raising their *own* children.

"I've seen good reaction from my FGP's. 'Now I've got something to get up in the morning for,' they say.

"The town knows all about it now. You'll find that older people are very vocal. You go to a Rutland shoe store or the A & P and hear about it. As far as publicity goes, they are some of your best agents! And some of our second group of FGP's were recruited through current ones."

THE FORGOTTEN TIGUAS

Just past El Paso an aboriginal Indian tribe slowly enters the 20th century and discovers the War on Poverty

Smoke curls lazily above a beehive-shaped adobe oven, carrying the fragrance of baking bread. Across the field, the door to a sunbaked one-room hut opens and the spare figure of an elderly man emerges and goes to a nearby wooden shack.

A new day has begun in Ysleta del Sur and the Cacique (Chief) of the Tigua Indians, Jose Granillo, is hungry. The wooden building, his storehouse, contains strips of dried meat and fish, corn and mesquite and tornillo beans, herbs for medicines, and yucca roots for soap.

The early morning scene in Ysleta, now incorporated into sprawling El Paso, Texas, could be a replay of 300 years ago, for the Tiguas, an aboriginal Pueblo Indian tribe, have maintained their identity and their customs despite incredible hardships and poverty.

The Tiguas built the first European-style building in Texas, the Ysleta mission designed by the Spaniards and still in part intact. It is the heart of Ysleta.

The Tiguas never fought the Europeans, nor the Republic of Texas, nor the United States; and as a result, they have been a forgotten tribe for more than a century.

"Half the people in El Paso don't even know the Tiguas are here," says Tom Diamond, tribal attorney. "The rest don't believe they are Indians. If I had grown up in El Paso, I would probably have never known about them either."

Luckily, Tom Diamond, a square-jawed smiling man who packs 25 hours into every 24, picked up stakes in California and moved to El Paso 17 years ago. He is now head of one of the largest and most influential law firms in the Texas border city.

He also knows more about the Tiguas than state or Federal Indian experts, and possibly more than the Tiguas themselves. It was Tom Diamond who traced the Tigua ancestry from the 1530 journals of Cabese de Vaca to the present day; it was Diamond who pleaded with state officials and the Congress to recognize the Tiguas; and it was Diamond who got OEO interested.

"That was really the beginning," says Diamond. "Without OEO, we couldn't have gotten started. See, the Tiguas were very suspicious; over the years, they have had all these people come in here and look around and say, we're going to help. And then they went away, and the Tiguas never saw or heard of them again.

"When Jack Salem (a local TV newsman) told me there was a tribe of aboriginal Indians here in El Paso, living in incredible poverty, I was the thirteenth lawyer who had been asked to go in there and see what could be done to help. I was the first one to go—and, well, I guess I got hooked.

"So then when I talked to Fred Smith (director of the local Community Action Program, Project Bravo) I told him the problem was so vast that there was simply no place to start. How do you deal with a tribe of aboriginal Indians who have never been recognized as a separate people?"

Diamond and Smith agreed that the first problem was to identify the Tiguas as a surviving aboriginal tribe, and then to seek recognition for them at state and Federal levels.

That was in early 1966. While Diamond and the newsman, Salem, drove all the way to Isleta, a Pueblo Indian community in southern New Mexico, trying to learn more about the Texas Tiguas, Smith and the late Joe McDougall, then Project Bravo director, were working on a CAP project to bring an expert in to study the Tiguas.

During the summer of 1966, OEO paid Nicholas Hauser, a graduate anthropologist at the University of New Mexico, a total of $1,200 to spend three months living with and studying the Tiguas. An Indian aide who spoke some Spanish and English accompanied Hauser, translating his questions to the Tiguas, many of whom spoke only their own dialect.

The Cacique and other tribal officers meanwhile had begun to open up and speak more freely to Diamond; when he came home, glowing, to tell them what he had learned of their history in New Mexico and from ancient records, they laughed. They had known most of it all

along, but simply were unwilling to speak of tribal matters to outsiders.

At the same time, Fred Smith and Project Bravo were concentrating on practical problems among the Tiguas. There was, for example, Guillermo Granillo, 46, who supported two sisters and their four children on the $3 a day he made picking cotton part of the year in the Lower El Paso Valley.

This Granillo had been born with a huge congenital hernia. Guillermo, or Willie, had never seen a doctor or been inside a hospital in his life. Project Bravo managed to get him into Thomas General Hospital for corrective surgery.

Tom and Fred told of moving heaven and earth to find Willie Guillermo a job after he recovered from the hernia surgery. They persuaded administrators at a nearby (about 20 miles) veterans hospital to waive the rules and employ Willie as a porter.

"He could have made more there in a month than he earned the whole previous year. But would he stay?

No! It was too different from home. So he wouldn't go," Tom says, shaking his head ruefully.

Oh, he added, some of the young people occasionally go away to look for better opportunities—"but when *they get old, they come back here to die.*"

Then there was the case of Dora Sedillo, an attractive young mother in her early 20's. Dora was one of the two or three Tiguas who applied for work in the Project Bravo barrio program, acting as a neighborhood worker in Ysleta where the Tiguas live side by side with poverty-stricken Mexican-Americans.

Noting her enthusiasm and quick mind, Smith and McDougall urged Dora to enroll in an adult basic education class. She became the first Tigua in Texas to complete her GED program and receive her high school equivalency certificate. She then enrolled in night classes and studied sociology at Texas Western University (now the University of Texas at El Paso).

In 1967, Tom Diamond and Fred Smith made the 700-mile journey to the state capitol in Austin to appear before a special committee of the Texas Legislature and plead for recognition for the Tiguas. It was granted before the end of the Legislative session in June, and the Texas Indian Commission sent an Indian commissioner to Ysleta.

During the summer and fall of 1967, El Paso County announced plans to turn over to the Tiguas their old camping grounds in the Hueco Tanks area 20 miles south of Ysleta. The property, 787 acres, had cost $80,000. The State of Texas envisioned a tourist-attraction park which would be built by the Tiguas and where they would later display and sell their beadwork and other handicrafts.

As Tom Diamond sees it, the park will provide a living for the Indians within commuting distance of their

homes, yet will not invade the privacy of those who do not care to live in a goldfish bowl.

"You see, home is a very special place to the Tiguas," Tom explains.

"All these years they've lived here in this very place, the home of their ancestors. They've been poor, incredibly poor, they live in shacks with no running water, no electricity, no plumbing. But Ysleta is home to them, and you can't take them away from it. They don't want to go anywhere else; their chiefs are here, their herbs and medicine men, their religious objects and their tusla (prayer place)."

The park will offer the Tiguas a place to work during the day, and it is close enough to Ysleta to allow them to come home at night, Tom says. The State Indian

Commission has already purchased one station wagon for the Tiguas, and there are plans to purchase at least one more and two trucks to transport the men to and from Hueco Tanks.

(There is some difference of opinion about that station wagon, incidentally. Dora Sedillo, who is now employed by the Texas Indian Bureau as a caseworker, uses it to transport people to the local medical clinics, and the Cacique thinks that is a wasteful use of it. He thinks the Tiguas should continue to seek herbs and medical help from their own medicine men!)

The Cacique also is cool to the idea of being a tourist attraction, Tom adds. The Tiguas value their privacy; they do not care to have strangers standing around gawking at their homes and their church, the Ysleta mission.

"That's the beauty of having the park away from town," Tom says. "If I have my way about it, the signs will show tourists the way to the park, but not to Ysleta. The show will all be at Hueco Tanks. The Tiguas who are interested in selling their wares to tourists, and those who are outgoing enough to talk with strangers, will work as salesmen and guides. Those who speak only the Tigua dialect, and who want to be left alone, will be hired to build roads and maintain the park and its facilities.

Meanwhile, according to Fred Smith, more and more of the Tiguas are learning that CAP is there to help them help themselves. Younger adults come in increasing numbers to the barrio center to seek further education, job training, medical care for themselves and their children. Project Bravo staffers, and especially Smith, try to fulfill every request.

The State of Texas is helping, too—although top officials were somewhat astounded when the Tiguas declared that their first and most pressing need was a new tusla. The present prayer place is a single room in the adobe home of Trinidad Granillo, the war captain. It is his wife, Rosa, who bakes the wonderful-smelling bread in the beehive oven.

Other developments have surprised the Tiguas since Tom Diamond and OEO learned of the forgotten tribe. A bill to recognize the Tiguas is pending before the present Congress. Negotiations are underway to bring them into the National Council of Pueblo Indians.* Private foundations have offered them grants in return for permission to study their way of life.

But the Cacique, while obviously fond of Diamond and Project Bravo Director Smith, apparently still has some reservations about all the new-fangled ideas and the strangers who seek him out.

"The other morning I brought a scientist from a famous foundation out here to meet the chief," says Diamond. "I had driven out the day before, as soon as the scientist called me to say what time his plane got in. I set it all up with the Cacique; we were to be at his house at 10 AM.

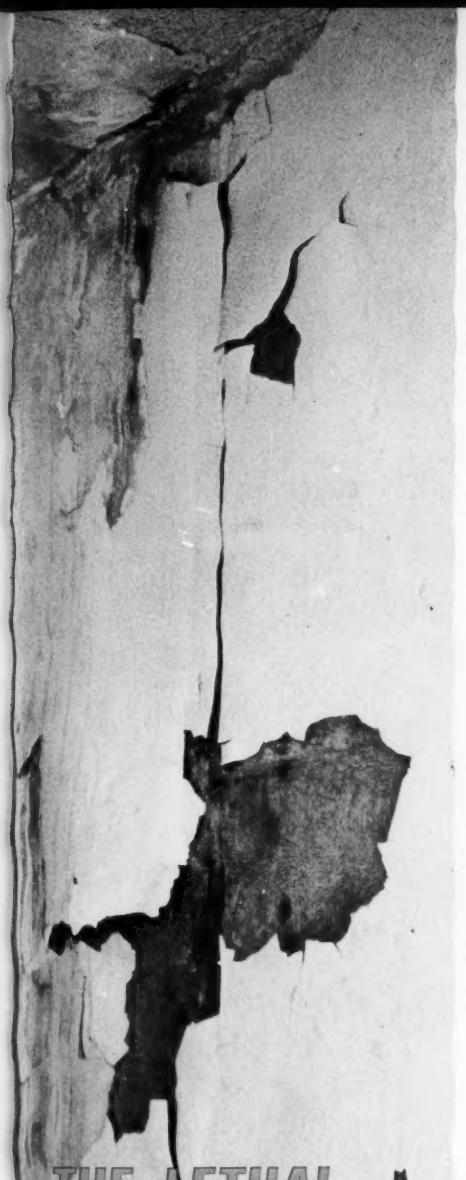
"When we got there, he was nowhere around. We waited awhile, and then I walked over to Trinidad's place to see if Trinny knew where he was. Nobody was home but Rosa. I asked her where the Cacique was.

"Do you know what the old rascal had done? He had gone over and rousted Trinny to help him snare a cornejo (rabbit)! He was hungry, and that was a lot more important to him than a visit with a scientist who wanted to offer him a lot of money!"

BETTY MACNABB
OEO PUBLIC AFFAIRS
SOUTHWEST REGION

***Editor's Note:**

The bill mentioned has been passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate, and signed by the President as Public Law 90-287, April 12, 1968.



THE LETHAL FRUIT OF SLUM HOUSING

Chicago lawyers attack lead paint menace

Warren Stubbs, 23 months, and his sister Jennifer, 4, live in a South Side Chicago slum building where lead-based paint peels and flakes from the walls. As a result of eating these lethal chips both children have developed heightened appetites for non-food materials. Both have been receiving intensive and painful treatment after tests showed they had high levels of lead in their bodies.

If it were not for Legal Services lawyers, Warren and Jennifer would be just two more victims of this ghastly "disease" of slum housing. The lawyers have sued the landlord and launched a broad attack against the lead paint menace, which causes brain damage and death among little children

On behalf of the Stubbs family, a suit has been filed aimed at forcing the landlord to repair the apartment where poison paint chips can be plucked like fruit from the walls. The suit is aimed at giving tenants the right to go into court to get the landlord to remove or repair a hazard to health and safety—something they cannot do under present law, which is weighted on the side of landlords. The OEO-funded Legal Aid Bureau has also offered to assist private lawyers willing to accept lead poisoning cases.

Lead poisoning is a serious problem in Chicago and other cities. A biochemist who has written on the problem said it is probably the leading cause of death among children one to four who live in slum housing. There are some doctors who suspect lead poison may be the key to the retardation and slow-learning problem of many ghetto children. There is some indication that the most curious (and hence potentially the most creative) children are the most likely to be lured by paint chips.

Biochemist David Elwyn of Chicago, assistant director for surgical research at the Hektoen Institute for Medical Research at the Cook County Hospital, said recently that one in every 15 children aged one to five living in poor housing suffers some degree of lead poisoning. He said a recent study of 425 Chicago children who suffered lead poisoning found that 39% suffered neurological injury—mostly mental retardation and seizures but also cerebral palsy and optic atrophy.

Two-thirds of the 12,000 tests for poisoning conducted each year at Hektoen are for lead poisoning. The Chicago Board of Health conducted a lead poison screening program that reached some 32,000 children, most of them recruited and tested at neighborhood Urban Progress Centers financed by the OEO Community Action Program. The program found that 2,662 children (or 8%) had abnormally high exposure to lead. They were called in for physical examination and more tests. As a result 757 children were treated for toxic levels of lead. Fourteen Chicago children, aged five months to seven years, died from lead poison in 1967, according to the Cook County Coroner's office. Four of the victims were one year old or less. Six were two years old. Ten were Negroes. The deaths were concentrated in ghettos on the south and near west sides of the city.

The first symptoms (vomiting, constipation, abdominal pains) are so vague that the victim might not be taken to a doctor. Or, a doctor might easily diagnose it as an intestinal disorder.

The more advanced symptoms include convulsions and loss of consciousness. Poisoning causes anemia, kidney damage, and nervous system disorders such as encephalopathy.

Diagnosis of lead poisoning is usually made when the physician is looking for it. The reported incidence of poisoning parallels public

interest and education on the subject and official figures on the problem underestimate the true incidence, Elwyn said.

An active case-finding program, such as has been conducted by the New York City health department since 1955, can significantly reduce death, mental retardation and neurological disorders caused by lead poison. But the problem will continue as long as landlords are allowed to let their slum buildings deteriorate.

Why should the lead paint menace be allowed to exist at all?

If it were not solely a disease of the poor, of slum housing, lead poisoning might have caught the attention of more people. If it were a peril to the middle class families of suburbia, there would likely be a National Committee to Fight Lead Poisoning. It would buy television time to educate the public and apply advertising and public relations to "find a solution" to The Problem.

There is no law that requires the landlord to remove peeling lead paint and plaster or that imposes penalties for permitting such conditions to exist. (Plaster is poisonous because the lead permeates it. Lead based paint went out of general use after World War II.)

A contributing factor is that landlord-tenant law generally is archaic. It confers many rights upon property and the landlord but virtually none upon the tenant. Like other areas of the American legal system, it is weighted strongly against the poor and in favor of those who have money. The lead poison problem demonstrates the fact that when housing is unsafe and unsanitary — and hazardous — the tenant cannot in most jurisdictions compel the landlord to repair, provide heat, hot water. But the landlord can force the tenant to pay the rent or face eviction. The housing codes are not enforced in most cities. So, while the landlord is free to break the law (in most states), the tenant is required to live up to the letter of his lease or get thrown out.

The lead poison peril, like other unsafe and unhealthy conditions of slum housing, is allowed to exist because public officials are not compelled to enforce the housing laws and tenants cannot force landlords to live up to those laws.

OEO programs seem to be the only source of help, the only force willing and able to challenge the situation. The Chicago Legal Aid Bureau, has singled out the lead poisoning problem as a top priority item in its law reform program. The decision was made by director Arthur K. Young and Marshall Patner, head of the Appellate and Test Case Division, which brought the lead poisoning suit against the Stubbs' landlord. Patner, 36, is an experienced lawyer and an authority on appeals. He recently wrote a book on criminal appellate procedure. Last year he directed a pilot project at the University of Chicago law school in which students prepared briefs on criminal appeals. He directs a law reform staff of seven attorneys, most of them young, bright and new in the field. Under Patner's direction, they are researching and challenging major legal problems of the poor. The assault on lead poisoning includes:

The suit, which contends that peeling paint and plaster constitute a nuisance and violate the landlord's implied contractual obligation to maintain the housing in a livable condition. The suit is frankly aimed at changing the law and giving some deserved rights to tenants. Victory in the case would be great legal significance because it would mean tenants in Chicago would have the right to go to court to get the landlord to remove or repair a hazard to health or safety.

The attorneys in the case are George A. Ranney, Jr. of the Legal Aid Bureau, Edward G. Thomson of Community Legal Counsel, another OEO project sponsored by the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, and Ronald Lachner, a VISTA lawyer-volunteer. **(See "Bright Young Lawyers")**

The Legal Aid Bureau has announced it will assist private lawyers who bring suits on behalf of children affected by lead. Private lawyers have been reluctant to take such cases on a contingent fee basis because there is no direct precedent and they pose new problems of proof. However, last summer a private Chicago lawyer received a $125,000 settlement for a ghetto child who suffered retardation from lead poisoning from peeling walls in a common hallway of a building. (The landlord's liability for conditions in a common hallway is well-established in the law. The bureau's

suit seeks to show the landlord is liable for conditions inside apartments.) Patner said his staff is ready to provide outside lawyers with model pleadings, memoranda, relevant medical information, and technical advice on tests for lead and what laboratories perform them. Although the Legal Aid Bureau is not permitted to seek money damages for its clients, it will continue to file injunction suits in emergency cases and refer potential contingent fee cases to other lawyers.

The bureau is drafting a report recommending legislative controls. It has asked the major paint companies to develop a prophylactic to combat existing lead paint surfaces. When a coat of non-lead paint is applied over lead paint, the lead content permeates the new coat so that it too becomes toxic and dangerous. Lead permeates plaster in the same way. A prophylactic is needed to render lead-painted walls harmless by a covering that would resist permeation.

The suit filed on behalf of Mrs. Mary Stubbs, and her children alleges that the interior hall and rooms of their apartment have holes exposing loose plaster; that paint tends to peel and fall from the wall in flakes; that the two children have eaten pieces of paint and plaster from the wall and the floor; that chemical analysis showed the paint and plaster contained high levels of lead; that Jennifer and Warren were tested and found by the Board of Health to have elevated levels of lead in their systems; that the landlord knew or should have known of the lead paint hazard in the building.

The suit asks issuance of a mandatory injunction ordering the landlord to repair the walls, exterminate the bugs and rats, and to supply adequate heat.

George Ranney, who handled the Stubbs Case for the bureau, is typical of the bright young lawyers who enter the Legal Services field. Serving with the bureau on a one-year OEO Smith Fellowship, Ranney was editor-in-chief of the law review at the University of Chicago Law School and a clerk to U. S. Court of Appeals Judge Carl McGowan in the District of Columbia. Ranney is involved in several other matters of importance to the poor people of Chicago:

The "holder in due course" concept. This makes it possible for a shoddy merchant to sell a buyer defective or overpriced furniture or appliances, immediately assign the contract to a finance company, and fail to make good on its part of the contract. If the furniture falls apart, the finance company can sue the buyer and collect the money without regard to whether the seller lived up to his contract.

Ranney is representing the case of a woman who was sold a home improvement job by a construction firm which failed to perform the work, sold the contract to a prominent savings and loan association, and supposedly went out of business. In the suit, Ranney is seeking to establish the principle that the savings and loan company has an obligation to check out the firms from which it accepts sales contracts. Ranney said the holder in due course concept is archaic, should have no application in the field of consumer credit, that it shields shoddy merchants who seek to bilk the poor.

Confession of judgment. If a person defaults on a lease or a retail contract in Illinois, the creditor can

get a court judgment against the buyer *signed without any notice to him,* and the sheriff can seize the buyer's property or his bank account can be tied up without warning.

Ranney has researched the problem, which affects 40,000 people a year in Chicago, and is convinced that a strong constitutional challenge can be made against the practice. He said the practice violates the constitutional guarantee of due process because the buyer is given no notice before he is deprived of his property and violates equal protection of the laws because people without lawyers are not in a position to reopen such judgments. Ranney said many who are victims of this practice come to the bureau's neighborhood offices.

Health care for the medically indigent. Ranney said the program for those who are not on the welfare rolls but who cannot pay for medical care is being administered in such a way that it places severe burdens on those it is intended to help. The "medically indigent" cannot get emergency care in a private hospital because they cannot pay. Usually, such people let an illness go to the point of crisis. Then they find it almost impossible to qualify for help immediately because eligibility cards are not issued in advance to all who qualify. Although they cannot afford to pay for care, they must find a way to pay the hospital. And it takes up to six months for health officials to decide they are eligible and reimburse them.

Another inequity in the Cook County program is that medically indigent people are not reimbursed for doctor's expenses—while recipients in all the other 102 counties in Illinois *are* reimbursed for doctors expenses. This raises a serious question of equal protection of the laws for the poor people in Chicago, Ranney said. He has talked with health officials in an effort to iron out the problems.

Another young lawyer who has grappled with a tough legal problem—and won—is Robert Berger, of Chicago, a 26-year-old University of Michigan graduate and a Smith Fellow. The reason Wall Street law firms recently raised the starting pay for lawyers to $15,000 was to attract people like Berger. (The same holds for the other Smith Fellows with the bureau, Ranney and Robert Bennett.) He was first in his class in 1966 at the University of Chicago Law School. He was a clerk with a U. S. Court of Appeals judge in New York City last year. He is personally amiable, tenacious, and even relentless in his pursuit of a client's interests.

Although Berger could be representing giant corporations for a large private firm, one recent client was Dixie Clark, about 55, a part-time maintenance man with a family of six who receives a partial disability pension.

On Clark's behalf, Berger successfully challenged a practice in Illinois that effectively prevented any poor tenant from appealing an adverse court decision in a landlord-tenant case. The setting of high cash bond for an appeal simply had the effect of slamming the court door in the face of poor people. This is an area lawyers call "procedural rights"—a major problem area for the poor.

Berger won a decision from Illinois Supreme Court Justice Walter V. Schaefer recognizing the principle that the requirement of large

cash bonds bars poor people from appeal. Where the trial court had set the appeal bond at $1,500, Justice Schaefer set a bond requiring only that the tenant post as security the six months back rent he had been withholding as a rent strike and promise to pay the rent as it became due thereafter while the appeal is pending. Berger said the bond represented a "fair middle ground" that (1) enabled the tenant to appeal and (2) protected the rights of the landlord against possible loss.

A tenant ordered evicted by a trial court in Illinois, said Berger, has 5 days (instead of the usual 30) in which to file an appeal, and five days (instead of the usual 30) in which to post an appeal bond. Until last December, when Justice Schaefer signed the new kind of bond, such bond was usually set at $1,000 to $2,500 and sometimes higher, for the purpose of protecting the landlord against loss of past or future rent and possible property damage.

Dixie Clark couldn't raise $1,500 in five days—or 50 days. How many poor people could?

Dixie Clark was living in a two-unit West Side slum building, that was in unsafe and unsanitary condition. It had bare electric wiring, no stairway railing, no heat provided, windows without glass, the basement flooded, and the yard left full of garbage, Berger said. Clark and the other tenant withheld the rent in an effort to get the management to fix up the premises.

Editor's Note:

They joined in a rent strike by a large number of tenants in buildings managed by a firm that specializes in slum properties. The firm has been denounced by William H. Robinson, director of the Cook County Department of Public Aid, as one that "finds it profitable to create and maintain slums."

The landlord moved to evict him and the trial court decided that he should be evicted. If the $1,500 appeal bond set by the court had been upheld, Clark and his family would have been thrown out on the street and perhaps wondering what the phrase "equal justice to all" really means.

Director Young is very proud of the victories he has won in the field of procedural rights. Another example is the handling of welfare fraud cases in Cook County. It used to be that when a recipient was accused of receiving benefits fraudulently, he would be proceeded against by warrant and jailed while the question was decided. By working with county welfare officials, Young has succeeded in getting the procedure changed so that the accused person is proceeded against by summons in a civil action and not imprisoned while the charge against him is decided. The previous system punished the accused before guilt was determined.

The Legal Aid Bureau handled 44,000 cases last year through nine neighborhood offices, a downtown office, and a juvenile court office. The downtown office and one at the University of Chicago are funded privately, while the remainder are financed by OEO. Young said OEO funds have made it possible to provide help to 19,000 more clients a year to fill a "tremendous void" at the juvenile court where no service was offered before, and to mount a serious law reform program.

Young Legal Services attorneys, like those in the Appellate Division, are exposed to challenges they would not find as a beginning member of a private firm. They are arguing and representing important cases and constitutional issues.

When Robert Bennett argued a welfare residency case before a three-judge federal court, it was the first time he had argued a case extensively in court. Yet he was successful in obtaining a permanent injunction restraining enforcement of the one-year welfare residency requirement in all public assistance programs. The Illinois ruling was one of six in the nation obtained by Legal Services lawyers declaring residency laws unconstitutional. Bennett, 26, cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School in 1965, said that if he were working in a large law firm "it is inconceivable that I would have argued a case of that kind."

He readily admits he was "very frightened and nervous" when he began his argument before the three-judge court. He said he had prepared to argue three different matters separately and was "thrown for a loop" when the judge asked him to discuss them all together. But he recovered quickly and regained his confidence, he said.

Judges and lawyers are gradually getting educated to the viewpoint of the young lawyers who come into the courts to argue points that were never raised before, to represent the kinds of cases that were seldom represented in the past.

Bennett tells about one occasion in the Circuit Court when he had to concede a legal point to the opposing lawyer.

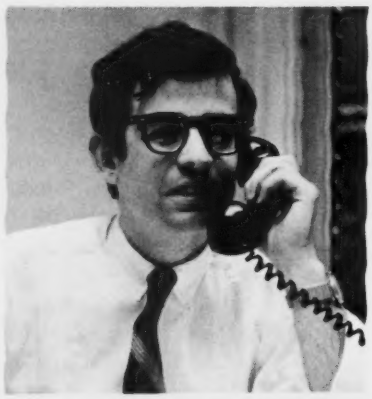
The judge apologized a bit for Bennett's lack of knowledge saying, "Well, he's just a young lawyer. He doesn't know."

But the opposing lawyer disagreed, saying:

"What do you mean, your honor. He (Bennett) has a whole staff of lawyers behind him."

BRIGHT YOUNG LAWYERS

George A. Ranney, 26, is the Legal Aid Bureau attorney representing lead poisoning suit against a Chicago landlord.



Robert Berger, 26, former clerk to Federal appeals court judge, has helped open the doors of appeals courts for poor tenants.

Marshall Patner, 36, energetic and experienced, directs the young lawyers of the Bureau's law reform unit.

Alfred R. Lipton, 26, has requested Supreme Court to hear case in which he argues that a juvenile was not advised of his right to counsel at time of arrest. The case seeks to apply the "Miranda" ruling to juveniles.

Robert Bennett, 26, won Federal court ruling that Illinois residency law was unconstitutional. It was one of six such rulings won by Legal Services in the nation.

Dave Shagam has an enthusiastic following among residents of Chicago's Robert Taylor Homes public housing project, where he manages a neighborhood law office.

CAP NEWSLINE

CONSUMER ACTION

WHERE'S THE MONEY FOR CONSUMER ACTION?

There are various consumer programs in both the private and public sectors with resources to help consumer action move. One with funds available for technical assistance is the Economic Development Administration, a branch of the Commerce Department. EDA gives first consideration to depressed areas, usually defined as having unemployment 50-100 percent greater and a median income 50 percent lower than the national average. A program is more likely to be funded if it can be shown that it is in an area suffering from or threatened by substantial unemployment and that it is one which will create jobs.

Applications should be submitted to the Director, Office of Technical Assistance, EDA, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C. 20230.

GREEN POWER

"Buying clubs and credit unions are chicken feed. The real name of the game is economic power." In this way William Martin, director of the Economic Development Division, Action for Boston Community Development, summed up the temper of the National Low Income Consumer Action Leaders Conference, sponsored by OEO, hosted by his agency, and covered by the four major Boston television stations.

Consumer action leaders from 24 communities across the country discussed ways in which they are combating economic exploitation. Many described excessive prices and questionable business practices used by low-income retailers.

Besides consumer cooperatives, credit unions, and comparative shopping surveys, picketing of businessmen who cheat the low-income public was offered as a tool toward equalizing the power between consumer and seller. Max Weiner of Philadelphia's Consumer Education and Protection Association, an organization which has often employed this technique effectively, emphasized that no dealer can withstand pickets. Mr. Weiner cited political strength as an important tool in protecting the consumer, citing a recent municipal election in which CEPA brought out 6700 votes for their candidates.

Among the vast array of problems, the communications gap was most frequently mentioned. Few consumer action groups know very much about their counterparts in other cities nor the resources available at OEO and other government agencies nor in the private sector.

Editor's Note: This section of **Communities in Action** is a response to this suggestion and serves as a clearinghouse of information about consumer action projects, activities, problems, concerns, and literature.

COMPARISON SHOPPING IN B'KLYN

"Why is it that my money goes down the drain when I enter a supermarket?"

"Why is it that when the welfare checks are received I have the feeling I am paying more?"

"Why is it that friends and relatives who have moved to higher-income neighborhoods tell me that prices there are cheaper?"

These concerns have been brought frequently by residents to the Consumer Action Program of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Inc. (CABS), an OEO-funded consumer action research and pilot project.

Through this program, directed by Gladys Aponte, a lawyer and housewife from San Juan, low-income consumers are being alerted to their daily problems **as consumers** and are devising means towards their solutions and an alternative to the high priced economy of the "ghetto" marketing system.

CABS' definition of low-income consumer problems includes not only the normal difficulties of higher prices and shoddy goods but also problems encountered in governmental services provided consumers, such as welfare. This definition derives from actual experience where consumer problems can be closely related to unemployment and welfare assistance.

Consequently, CABS programs have been developed to deal coordinately with consumers and neighborhood merchants in their interdependent economic as well as social problems.

Choice has been offered to Bedford-Stuyvesant residents through a carefully coordinated plan.

Sixty-four blocks of the target area have been organized into consumer-merchant block committees by residents trained in consumer education and action. These serve as units for consumer education and provide a forum to discuss and resolve the conflicting consumer-retailer interests. The committees bring concerted block action to problems such as police protection and consumer protection legislation.

A Consumer Social Services Unit, staffed with residents trained to provide information concerning available public and private services and benefits, assists residents in problems ranging from credit to welfare assistance—problems which can so effectively dislocate whatever economic stability the ghetto resident may have.

Legal counselling is provided by a lawyer, experienced in low-income problems, who advises individuals concerning legal redress.

A credit union serves as the nucleus to foster change in the ghetto marketing system, not just as an alternative to loan sharks or prohibitively high interest rates but to stimulate use of its assets, to effect comprehensive changes in the neighborhood.

These various elements of the CABS program were coordinated in a com-

parison shopping survey after a series of community meetings held by the consumer block committees determined the chief complaints of residents.

Six residents, including Mrs. Aponte, submitted regular shopping lists of items, amounts, and brand names together with the names of chain stores where they regularly bought. Analysis resulted in a typical list of 20 items and five major chain stores.

The survey was conducted on November 14 and 16, dates picked to test complaints of price variance on welfare check days, namely the first and sixteenth of each month.

The five shops and one in a middle-income area were canvassed on these dates. In four of the five surveyed, bills in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood ranged from $.07 to $.78 higher than the middle class store November 14 and from $.25 to $1.00 more November 16. The fifth Bedford-Stuyvesant store which had showed no variance before revealed a $.34 discrepancy November 16.

Mrs. Aponte later emphasized to a House Government Operations Special Study Subcommittee that the survey was not used as a weapon for discrediting these stores but as a tool for negotiation and hence a means of bridging the gap between consumer and business. The goal of CABS, as she expressed it, is to "promote, develop, and preserve a healthy free enterprise system within ghetto marketing conditions."

THE EXPLAINERS

Little public attention has been focused until recently on the problems of the low-income consumer. Since the Federal anti-poverty program and other consumer agencies have come into existence there is increasing concern with consumer fraud and the means of combating economic exploitation, chiefly of the ghetto resident. The various films, books, and publications described below reflect this.

The Owl Who Gave a Hoot and **The Poor Pay More** are two films which have been used successfully with many low-income consumer groups.

Owl, a 15-minute color film in 35, 16, and 8 millimeter sizes features cartoon animals which bring to life the problems of low-income consumers. Basic information is provided about intelligent buying and avoiding traps inherent in existing practices by unscrupulous merchants. The film effectively alerts low-income groups to their rights as consumers—often denied because of malpractice, fraud, and their own lack of knowledge. The film simply illustrates means of becoming wise consumers and putting limited resources to maximum advantage. It is available through OEO Public Affairs, 1200 19th St., Washington, D.C. 20506.

The Poor Pay More, a one hour black and white film based on the 1963 book by Columbia University sociologist, David Caplovitz, names names in an investigation of low-income neighborhood furniture dealers and food chains, food freezer pitchmen and telephone companies. National Education Television staffers went on location in New York and San Francisco to investigate practices familiar to all metropolitan areas. Concealed cameras were used in ghetto furniture outlets in an expose of hidden credit costs, to film a food freezer and a door-to-door conman pitching to a ghetto customer. A crew also went with a Department of Markets investigator on "operation lamb chops" in which meat dealers were nailed for underweight scales. This film can be purchased from the University of Indiana's audio-visual center, Bloomington, Ind.

The Caplovitz book, based on a survey of 464 households in low cost public housing projects in New York City, spotlights consumer problems faced by these families. Many of them are recent migrants to the city, seeking to improve their style of life through the installment plan. By interviewing merchants who sell the goods these people buy, the author describes and analyzes the complicated system of sales and credit evolved in poor sections of the city.

The plight of the low-income consumer is well documented by statistics revealing the prices they pay for appliances and the types of stores in which they shop and by accounts of exploitative door-to-door credit merchants and debt entanglements in which these families are frequently trapped.

Other books of interest to consumer action workers include **Dollars and Sense** by Joseph Bensman, Macmillan, 1967; **Buy Now, Pay Later** by Hillel Black, Morrow Press, 1961; ***The Innocent Consumer vs The Exploiters*** by Sidney Margolius, Trident Press, 1967; and two consumer guides, **Directory of Government *Agencies Safeguarding Consumer and* Environment** by Daniel Sprecher, available for $4.95 at Serina Press, Alexandria, Va., and **Guide to Federal Consumer Interests** available for $.75 on request from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Publications of use to the consumer include **Consumer Reports: Buying Guide Issue,** available for $1.95 at Consumers Union, 256 Washington Street, Mount Vernon, New York, and **Some *Ideas for Community Action,*** Southern Cooperative Development Program, P.O. Box 3005, Lafayette, La., an illustrated, simply outlined guide on community organization.

Various government documents can be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. These include **Guide to Federal Consumer Interests** ($.75), **A Consumer's Guide to U.S. Department of Agriculture Services** (No. 959—$.20), **Consumer Information** (No. 86—$.10), **Managing Your Money** (No. 0-757-131—$.10), and **When You Use Credit** (No. 0-760-071—$.10).

Further information helpful to consumer action and education programs can be secured from the office of the Assistant Commissioner for Education and Information, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health, Education and Welfare; the Federal Trade Commission; the Small Business Administration; and the Department of Agriculture's Consumer and Marketing Service—all in Washington.

12 CREDIT UNIONS, 2,000 FAMILIES

In Boston, low-income families are being helped economically through the or-

ganization of 12 credit unions with Federal and state supervision. Formed in nine target areas, under the guidance of Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD), which acts as an agent for four unions under contract to OEO, they are training 17 future credit union agents under the Scheuer New Careers Amendment. Though all are less than two years old, these credit unions have combined assets of over $250,000. ABCD Consumer Action Director Sidney Blitz is recruiting trainees from Boston's low-income areas and teaching them the complete operation of credit unions. He expects that they will either go to work full-time for one of the low-income credit unions or be placed in one of an estimated 100 new credit union jobs created each year in the Boston area.

More than 2,000 families have become involved in the 12 credit unions. Formerly forced, due to limited funds, to deal with merchants who had been taking advantage of them, they are now enabled by credit union loans to buy from reputable merchants. In many cases, this type of competition has forced the "gyp" merchant to revise his practices.

THE PEOPLE vs. DR. Z

Consumer action triumphed with the recent arrest of Bernarr Zovluck who was charged with exploiting Spanish-speaking people in his chiropractor's office in mid-town Manhattan.

His arrest and subsequent conviction in Federal District Court before Judge Harold R. Tyler on March 4th resulted from pressure by the Consumer Education Program of Massive Economic Neighborhood Development, an East Harlem anti-poverty agency popularly known as MEND.

Picketing and other activities to warn the public and elicit official response were taken against the chiropractor who solicited heavily by phone, allegedly offering ostensibly free medical examinations which led invariably to contracts for paid treatments. Although public agencies, including the Attorney General's office, were aware of this operation for years, none took any action until MEND forced the issue. This was done chiefly by throwing a picket line in front of Zovluck's office at 42nd Street in April 1967 which focused public attention on the "doctor's" activities.

His conviction is widely believed to mark the first time that efforts of an anti-poverty program have successfully caused a practitioner to be brought to trial. The conviction included mail fraud, conspiracy, the misuse of the words United States, and persuading unlicensed assistants to pose as doctors and lawyers to collect claims.

This is only one instance of action against fraudulent operators taken by MEND. On September 11, 1967 some 30 furniture stores were visited by MEND which discovered prices three or four times as high as those downtown. With assistance from the New York City Department of Markets 19, summonses were issued to these stores for failure to post prices and misleading advertising. As a result of another MEND activity, summonses were delivered to six food stores for overcharging or misrepresenting 57 advertised items.

These actions plus classes for consumers based on these findings and attention given them by the mass media have alerted many consumers to fraudulent practices.

. . . THAN CURSE THE DARKNESS

In Cleveland, Ohio, 30 low-income women, members of the Hough, Glenville, and Spanish-American Buying Clubs, are learning the candle-making craft from Mrs. Edith Christenson, an employee of the Cooperative League of the U.S.A., funded by OEO to conduct the Buying Club Demonstration Project. The buying clubs seek to help 500 low-income families put their consumer dollar to better use. William Stewart is director of the Cooperative League's Cleveland program.

The candles, made from slow burning Glo-Wax are molded into attractive and often original figures shaped like Swiss cheese, beer mugs, and even ticker-tape columns. The prices range from $.50 to $15.

Because they have been so successful, members are seeking methods of marketing their product more widely. Each candle maker (usually mothers involved in Headstart or other anti-poverty programs) puts one-third of the sale of the candle into the project purchasing fund used to buy further materials, the rest being profit.

Mrs. Christenson has pointed out that candle making is a good income supplement because it can be done at any time by anyone, low-income housewives, old people, and the disabled.

Her three rules:

1. Use Farmland (Glo-Wax four times refined), not paraffin.
2. Heat over boiling water, never direct heat.
3. Use a knitting needle or part of a coat hanger while hardening to release air-pockets.

All of which proves it is better to make even a candle then curse the darkness.

CAP NEWSLINE

MIGRANTS

Progress In Ohio

The migrant workers and their families arrived in Ohio early in April for the planting season of tomatoes, sugar beets and other crops. When the planting was completed, they moved north to Michigan for picking fruit. About mid-August, the migrant families return to Ohio for the harvesting of crops.

The majority of the migratory workers are employed in the western and northern sections of Ohio. During the peak of the season, more than 23,000 workers were in Ohio. This figure does not include the other members of the families.

What Happens To The Children?

In former days, the children were taken to the fields while parents worked. They would stay near the trucks or, if fortunate, under a shade tree at the end of the field. The babies and very young children were cared for by other children, possibly ages eight to nine. In some instances, the children would be left in the migrant camp area to fend for themselves with no adult supervision.

Several years ago, Ohioans began a program to care for the children. This effort was bolstered by money available under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. Through the cooperation of various community action organizations, the Ohio Departments of Health, Education and Public Welfare, Ohio Migrant Ministry and many other groups, the migrant children are now receiving some educational training, child care, and medical services. The families are benefiting by the various programs through assistance with legal problems, housing, employment, health, thrift shops, etc. Some of these programs are listed below:

Developing Day Care

Under the guidance of the Auglaize-Mercer Community Action Commission, a Head Start Program for migrant children was conducted in the Parkway Local School District at Willshire. Approximately 60 children were enrolled last year. Each child received a complete medical examination and the needed treatment where indicated. The number of enrollees fluctuated as new migratory families arrived in the area.

The local physicians treated as many of the children as possible, and in some cases, more extensive treatment was needed. In these cases, the CAC received additional medical service for migrants through the clinic at Union City, a good example of cooperation between community action groups as well as other local groups.

The Migrant Ministry Association of Mercer County donated a Day Care Center for migrant children at Rockford. The average daily attendance was 35 children, from six months to three years of age. Even though the Auglaize-Mercer Bi-Counties Community Action Commission was not funded to assist with the program, they aided in the transportation of these youngsters, helped to locate the babies in the migrant camps and assisted in any way possible to help make the program a success.

An excellent booklet, "Saludos Amigos!" was distributed to all the migrants in the area. This gives information on Spanish radio programs, thrift shops, Spanish-speaking residents, jobs, social security, medical help, day care centers, laws of the State of Ohio, churches and other facilities that the migrants might wish to use.

Churches Cooperate

The Hancock County Council of Churches in Ohio with funds granted by OEO conducted a nursery day care and Head Start program. These programs were very successful and some of the local contributors included the Young Men's Christian Association, Hancock County Health Department, Salvation Army, the Trinity Episcopal Church and the Ohio Department of Health.

During the time of the program, approximately 150 children benefitted from the medical, educational and cultural aspects of the program. The youngest child enrolled was a baby of three weeks. The nursery-age children were housed in a separate unit so that the older children would not interfere with their naps, etcetera. A highlight of the day for many of the older children was a trip to the YMCA for gym and swimming.

Children too old for Head Start and

up to age 13 were able to receive educational training through a program sponsored by the Findlay Board of Education in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Education. These children will be able to enroll in schools in their home states without being delinquent in the necessary background.

12-Hour Centers

The Stark County Board of Education, Ohio, funded by OEO, conducted a program at the Marlboro Elementary School for the children of approximately 700 migrant workers in the Hartville area. Approximately 75 pupils were enrolled. were enrolled.

Babies have been taken care of by the Stark County Welfare Department and the Hartville Migrant Council. All of the children were transported to the centers about 6 a.m. and stayed until 6 p.m. Since the parents were working a 12-hour day, the centers operated for this period of time.

The parents had not been forgotten and programs were held on family planning, nutrition, child feeding, smoking and alcoholism. It has been observed that once the parents talked to the teachers, they became more interested in the education of their children. Occasionally, they will send their children back to Florida (where most of the migrants in this area call "home") early so that the children can be enrolled in school.

Health and child care services were well received by both the parents and the children. Generally, the health needs were greater than in a regular Head Start program.

A total evaluation of the various migrant programs indicates that they are much needed, desired and appreciated by both the parents and the children. In home visitation, the parents commented on the English the children had learned and in some instances, the parents were able to learn English from their children.

The workers and their families who are part of the migrant stream are very necessary for the agricultural economy in Ohio. Ohioans are continuing to help these people become a vital part of the farm area population.

HEP'S REPORT CARD

OEO-CAP's High School Equivalency Program (HEP) after several months of operation looks like a winner.

HEP began in September, 1967.

This program was designed by the Migrant Division Staff in the Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington, D.C. and is for the benefit of children of migrant and seasonal farm workers, between the ages of 17 and 22. This is the largest segment of droupouts in the nation.

By the end of the 1968 school year **634** students were enrolled. At the end of the 1969 school year, **880** will be enrolled.

HEP centers are located at the following colleges and universities:

Farleigh Dickinson University, Madison, N.J.; University of Oregon, Eugene, Ore.; Southern Colorado State College, Pueblo Colo.; University of South Florida, Tampa; University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso; Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.; Washington State University, Pullman, Wash.; University of Wisconsin, Madison; Claremont University Center, Claremont, Calif.; Catholic University, Washington, D.C.; University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

The average grade completed in school at entry into HEP is the 9th Grade, but the average grade reading level at entry is only the 7th Grade.

Since September, a total of **164** students have successfully completed the General Educational Development (GED) test and earned their High School Equivalency Diploma.

- —10 have been placed in jobs and are working full-time
- —31 are in paid job-training programs
- —39 have entered college on a full-time basis
- — 7 have entered military service
- —31 hold part-time jobs while enrolled in various vocational training programs
- —70 are still enrolled in HEP, but taking either college or vocational-training courses on a part-time basis. They are waiting for the opportunity to begin these programs on a full-time basis.

Fifty-eight percent of the HEP students are Mexican-American, thirty percent are Negro, seven percent are American Indian, four percent are Caucasian, and one percent are Puerto Rican.

OLDER PERSONS

MYTHS ABOUT THE AGING

"One reason why we Americans have paid so little attention to the problems of our older people, and why we still allow more than seven million of them to live at or just merely above the poverty line, is that ours is a youth-oriented culture. We glorify youth to such an extent that no one wants to be thought anything but young. Jack Benny is by no means the only man who has celebrated his 39th birthday more than once!"

Thus, Genevieve Blatt, assistant director, OEO began her address to the Regional Conference on the Aging held in Washington, in March.

"Another, and perhaps a more important, reason is that we have so many misconceptions about older people," Miss Blatt commented, "and, having these misconceptions, believing these myths, we lull ourselves into thinking that there really are no problems.

"One of these misconceptions," she said, "is that there aren't many older people around. Yet census figures show that the number of older people, people 65 years of age or older, has increased from 3 million in 1900 to over 18 million in 1960, changing from 4.1% of the total population in 1900 to 9.4% of the total population in 1960. And the projection for the future is a continued rise to a total number of 28 million in 2000, just 32 years from now. That's a lot of people! And, with the retirement age steadily decreasing, probably we should have counted in a lot more who are, or will be, 60 or over, or 55 or over, or maybe only 45 or over. In fact, there are some who say that 38 will be the retirement age of the future!

"Another misconception is that, whatever the problems of old age may be, they don't last long, for few people live long past retirement. Yet, of the people over 65 counted in the last census, 50% were actually over 73 and about 30% were between from 75 to 85; 20% were over 85, and that actually was over a million people. There were even 13,000 over 100. And, with the retirement age dropping, more and more people will be spending from 20% to 30%, or maybe more, of their entire lifetime in so-called retirement. That's a long time, indeed—especially for suffering.

More Needed Than Social Security

"One more myth that too many people believe is that we need not worry about poverty among older people because almost all of them now are covered by Social Security, and they even have Medicare and Medicaid benefits besides. Yet many who now receive social security benefits, and even public assistance on top of that, still don't get enough to live above the poverty line. And they have no other assets, or perhaps only the equity in their home which they own but cannot afford to keep in repair.

"Actually today, of the over five million older Americans who live alone or with non-relatives, the median income is below the minimum poverty line, and close to seven million families with heads over 65 have less to live on than a poverty level income, many of them, far less! For the older women, who live alone or with non-relatives (a very large proportion of all the older poor) the actual income for 35% of them is under $1,000 a year and 25% of them have no other assets at all, while another 10% have only their homes. Moreover, the number of elderly women living today in solitary poverty has actually increased from 1.8 million to 2.1 million since 1959.

"But some people, who don't have the misconceptions just mentioned, have another which paralyzes action just as effectively. They say that, even if there are a lot of old people who have to live a long time in want, there really isn't anything that can be done for them except to build more institutions where they can be cared for. And when we stop to think of what enough institutions, decent institutions, for that many old people would cost, our minds boggle at the thought, and we try to think about something more pleasant.

Agonizing Choice

"And, because we were short-funded at the beginning, we made an agonizing choice then to put most of our limited funds into programs for the young, hoping to rescue them from poverty before it scarred them too badly. And now we find it hard to redirect and correct our heavy emphasis on youth programs so as to give a fairer share to the old. For the problems of the younger poor continue to be almost as urgent as ever, and we feel it wrong to cut back our efforts in their behalf, especially just when we seem to be making some headway. But it is still true that **the over-65 group is the heaviest hit by poverty of all age groups,** so we know that we just **must** pay it more attention.

"And, in case we didn't know it, Congress has made it abundantly clear that we had better know it, and had better do something about it—even though, sad to say, Congress still has not provided the money to do the job.

Reassessing The Older Poor

"But, really, there is a lot that **can** be done for older people, especially for the older poor.

"Many of them are still strong and healthy, as good as people 20 years younger were some years ago before modern medicine worked some of its miracles. They could work, at least part-time, and they would like to work. We could provide employment opportunities for them, too. There are service jobs in every community literally crying for some of these able-bodied older people to do them.

"Many, who are not quite able to work any more, could still live in dignity and independence, taking care of themselves for the most part, if they had just a **little** help in the way of someone to drive them around to shop, or to church services, or to the doctor's office, or someone to do a heavy chore, or someone to show them how to do things for themselves in spite of their new handicaps.

"They could make their reduced income go farther if someone showed them how to manage money better, or if someone helped protect their rights against those who would take advantage of them. It wouldn't be hard to provide these services, and it would be a lot cheaper than building institutions!

"We in the Office of Economic Opportunity do not have these misconceptions I have been talking about. We don't believe these myths. But our trouble is that we don't have the money we need to do what we know should be done for the older poor. We never **have** had it, either.

Congress' Mandate

"A reading of the 1967 Amendments of the Economic Opportunity Act will impress even the most casual reader with the fact that Congress wants us to emphasize our service to the older poor. Many different sections of the Act are specifically amended for this purpose, and many more are changed so as to require indirectly such action.

"We intend to implement these amendments in every way we can, short of spending new money which we don't have. We are already implementing them. And you will hear more at lunch about this, when Mr. Harding (OEO Acting Director) speaks.

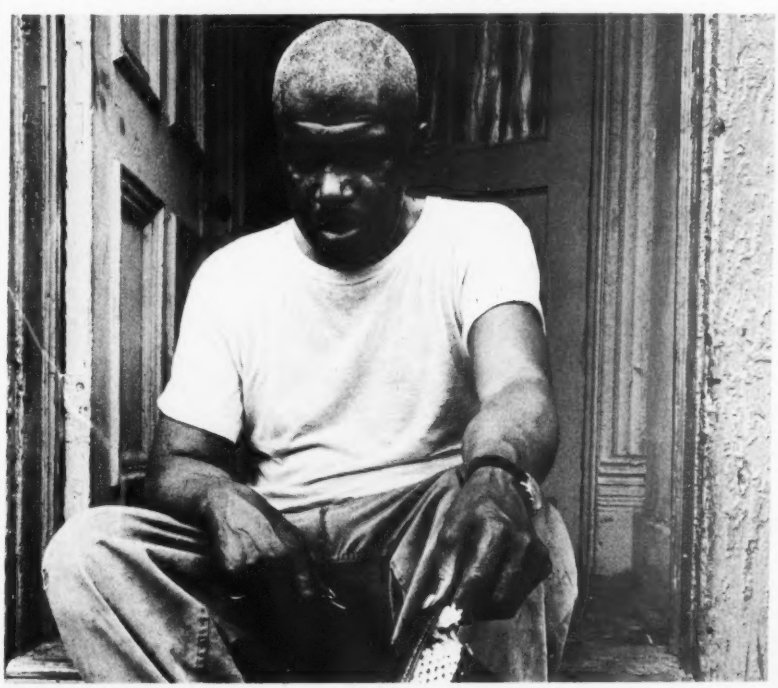
"But for now, we want to consider how **you** can help us implement these amendments and bring about more service for the older poor.

"Some areas have devised ingenious low-cost or no-cost programs. Some have had federal, state and local governmental aid from other agencies. Some have brought in help from civic organizations, church and fraternal groups, business and labor organizations, and individual volunteers. **You** may have even better ideas.

"If we all work together, we can break down the misconceptions that prevent so many people from understanding that there **is** a problem.

"And once they understand, I am sure that they will **do** something.

"Moreover, they will see that their elected representatives in government, in Congress, in State Legislatures, in City Halls and in Township Offices, **do** something **too!**"



LEGAL SERVICES

HIGH COURT DEBUT

Legal Services attorneys from Hartford, Conn., Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia, argued before the Supreme Court May 1 that state welfare residency requirements are unconstitutional.

It was the first time Legal Services lawyers appeared before the high court to present oral arguments.

The issue of welfare residency is a substantial one that affects an estimated 100,000 to 200,000 poor people a year. If the Supreme Court rules that durational residency laws are unconstitutional, it could bring an estimated $140 million to $200 million a year in benefits to the poor, according to the Department of HEW.

Within the past nine months, Legal Services lawyers have won eight decisions by three-judge Federal district courts that welfare residency laws are illegal in seven states and D.C. Legal Services Projects have filed a total of 16 other suits challenging such laws.

The first case heard by the Supreme Court May 1 was argued by Brian Hollander, the young lawyer who won the first residency decision last June when he was with the Hartford Neighborhood Legal Services program. He is now a member of a private firm in Hartford.

The second case was argued by Peter Smith of the Neighborhood Legal Services Project in D.C. Laurens Silver, head of the project's law reform unit, has worked closely with Smith on the case.

Thomas Gilhool, the consumer advocate of Community Legal Services in Philadelphia, appeared on behalf of the welfare applicants in the third case.

GAS RATE PROBE

Residents of poor areas commonly maintain that public utility companies discriminate by requiring large deposits and charging higher rates in ghetto sections. One such complaint has recently been filed with the District of Columbia Public Services Commission against the Washington Gas Light Company.

The complainants are the Neighborhood Advisory Council of the Washington Urban League and the Neighborhood Advisory Council's Consumer Action Committee, acting on behalf of low-income consumers of gas in the area served by the Washington Urban League Neighborhood Development Center.

The complaint, prepared by Neighborhood Legal Services attorneys, requests a full inquiry into certain practices and policies of the gas company to determine their legality and the extent of any arbitrary or discriminatory effects upon low-income consumers. The Commission has also been asked to determine whether deposits should be completely abolished or at least reduced to a minimal uniform amount.

The complainants question the company's use of monies being held as deposits and the methods employed to assign or establish credit ratings. In addition, they would inquire into the feasibility of establishing neighborhood consumer complaint offices, a procedure which has been adopted by companies in other metropolitan areas to assist consumers in resolving their problems with gas services.

The complaint reveals that in the fall of 1967 the Consumer Action Committee conducted a four-month neighborhood survey in a poor area to learn how widespread certain gas company practices appeared to be. One of the most significant discoveries was that deposits are both large and extremely varying in amount. Of the more than 21 per cent of the residents who said they had paid over $25, 18 had paid more than $50. These persons had deposited $100 to $110 and one person had paid $150. Even though the gas company states a policy of permitting a requirement of a $10 deposit when gas is used for cooking and a deposit equal to a two-month bill when it is used also for heating, among the families paying as much as $150 for deposits were 33 who said they used gas only for cooking. Only 20 per cent had paid $10 or less.

Thirteen of the 260 families surveyed reported they were without gas because services had been discontinued for nonpayment of bills. They could not afford to pay both the overdue bill and the additional amount required as a deposit before services would be resumed. Several had been without gas for more than a year.

The complaint alleges that there is information tending to support a conclusion that some blocks and streets are assigned "credit rating" or deposit ratings, which vary widely. For instance, all consumers on one street are reported to pay a $10 deposit, while on a parallel street residents pay $75. The complainants state that random checks among residents of more affluent neighborhoods indicated that most paid no deposit.

There is a widely held community belief that the company holds new consumers, or consumers moving to a new address, responsible for paying old bills left by former users. The survey found 18 persons who felt they had been subjected to such a requirement. If this were true, the company would be collecting from properties rather than from delinquent consumers.

Not one household among 260 reported ever having a deposit returned or receiving interest on a deposit. In addition, the complaint states, some families reported that they had moved several times within recent years and each time had had to make a new deposit, receiving no refund or credit on the old one.

In concluding their allegations, the groups stated that almost 40% of the gas users surveyed believed that their gas bills were too high. For instance, a bill of $80 dollars for one winter month for a two-bedroom unit was not uncommon. Heat loss attributable to malfunctioning of equipment accounted for some of these large bills, but in other cases there appeared to be no adequate explanation.

The gas company has denied the charges. A spokesman, who said that consumers with poor credit have to pay deposits irrespective of the neighborhood into which they move, maintained their credit is determined by employment stability, bill-paying habits and other criteria. If there is indeed evidence of discrimination against any group of consumers, he said, the company wishes to be informed and will take action. He stated that the one cited $150 deposit was "ridiculously high" and "obviously an error," either on the part of the company or of the survey.

RIGHT TO COUNSEL

Earl Johnson, former director of OEO Legal Services, said recently there must be a right to counsel in civil cases for all Americans.

In a speech before the Duval County Legal Aid Association in Jacksonville, Fla., he said that the lack of counsel in civil proceedings deprives the unrepresented person of his right to a fair hearing and to equal protection of the laws.

He said the right to counsel is as fundamental as—and directly related to—the right to vote. In our society of laws, he said "it is only in the courts and in administrative proceedings that these laws are given life. It is only in the agencies and courts that the individual brings to full, meaningful fruition the exercise of his right to vote."

Johnson said that when a person elects a representative he merely chooses the person who will assist in the **beginning** of a long law-making process. "His right to vote . . . is rendered truly meaningful only by an equally settled right to participate fully in agency and court proceedings."

He cited the recent California case in which one million people were saved from losing $200 million in state medical services as a result of a class suit filed on behalf of a poor person by Legal Services lawyers. He said this was a striking example of a citizen's "perfecting" his right to vote through court proceedings. He said:

"Both the United States Congress and the California state legislature, to which the recipients of Medi-Cal benefits had sent elected representatives, had enacted laws which the Governor of California was ignoring in promulgating the regulations which reduced the medical payment. But only through the courts could these citizens' right to vote have any real effect because only through the courts was the Governor compelled to obey the statutes which their elected representatives had passed."

THE EMANCIPATION OF JANIE TORRES

From the sixth grade to college in four months? Impossible? Not for Janie Torres.

Four months ago Janie Torres was a sixth grade dropout waiting on tables. Today she has traded her apron for the gown of a laboratory scientist. She is enrolled as a student in the science department of San Antonio College and well on her way toward a career in genetics.

Some would have said it couldn't be done. But they didn't know Janie Torres.

After she dropped out, she worked at odd jobs, such as being a waitress, to help support her family.

But Janie helped educate herself by reading.

Then some months ago, Janie, now 20, found out about the Neighborhood Youth Corps program providing education, counselling and paid work experience for youngsters who had not had the opportunity to complete their education.

Janie enrolled in the program, operated by the San Antonio Neighborhood Youth Organization. Jimmy Coronado, SANYO NYC education director, informed her that testing by his department indicated she had by her own efforts heightened her educational abilities from the sixth grade to tenth grade level.

Luckily for Janie, the SANYO educational classes are geared to the individual student's actual level of proficiency regardless of what grade had been formally completed.

Janie was placed in the classes for youngsters studying to take and pass the high school equivalency examination, meriting the student a high school equivalency diploma.

For four months Janie studied hard in the courses covered in the examination: reading, literature, mathematics, and other areas.

When the time came at the end of the four months to take the test measuring whether the student has developed an educational level equivalent to that demanded of a high school graduate, Janie passed with flying colors.

Then it was on to San Antonio College to launch a new life of study in the field of science.

The equivalency high school diploma was her gate pass to SAC. For Janie it means the difference between a lifetime of waiting tables and a future of probing the secrets of life with a microscope. Janie has no one to thank but herself, but she cites with thanks the help from the SANYO teachers in crossing the last bridge from tenth grade level to high school graduate level.

Without the NYC help, she couldn't have gotten that gate pass, she explains.

Carolina Handicraft Revival

CAP-sponsored project helps mountain people launch small industries

An "industrial revolution" is bringing financial hope to hundreds of poor families in North Carolina's mountains.

A renascence of the mountain handicrafts industry has been made possible by the WAMY Community Action program in the four counties—Watauga, Avery, Mitchell and Yancey—which give WAMY its initials.

Eventual control of the crafts program will be in the hands of the poor themselves.

The program began in June, 1965, when a WAMY employee visited economically deprived persons and encouraged them to attempt the manufacture of crafts—with materials, teaching and central marketing obtained through WAMY.

The program has since become a booming business, with 204 craftsmen, who sold $5,500 worth of goods in the last quarter of 1967 alone. Most sales are made through the Central Warehouse maintained by WAMY in an abandoned school building in Cove Creek, in Watauga County, and through fairs and wholesale houses in the northeast.

"The volume of business we can handle depends only upon how fast our craftsmen can turn out their products," said Ruffin Tucker of Spruce Pine, WAMY marketing specialist. Tucker said demand for most crafts products exceeds present supply.

"We foresee an eventual sales volume of a hundred thousand dollars yearly," added Mrs. Juanita English, four-county crafts coordinator.

Mrs. English and four WAMY crafts specialists—one in each county—administer the crafts program. Community-based "home visitors" help see that craftsmen are supplied with materials and their products transported to markets.

Last December, the crafts workers were organized into a mutual association, similar to an agricultural cooperative. Known as "Blue

Ridge Hearthside Crafts, Inc.," the organization will be controlled entirely by craftsmen, with only two employees—an administrator and a marketing specialist—who are not craftsmen. Pooled finances will enable craftsmen to buy raw materials wholesale at bulk prices; and the association will buy directly from member craftsmen, to eliminate the waiting period before payment. Red tape will be eliminated in such areas as sales tax reports and inventory control.

"Eventually," says Tucker, "Hearthside Crafts should . . . operate on a self-paying basis, without subsidy."

Greatest sales successes for the crafts program to date have been at regional fairs and Christmas bazaars, and nationally-publicized folk festivals and fairs. Liberty House in New York City, a national clearinghouse for crafts associations, has bought WAMY merchandise in impressive quantities.

Expansion to retail markets will mean a big jump in income for many craftsmen. A retail catalogue now being organized will list over 300 handicraft items to be handled by the association.

Crafts items most in demand now are, unfortunately, among those which will yield the smallest profits for craftsmen—wood-carved toys and rag dolls. Still, 12-20 persons sign up for each community-wide handicrafts class, taught by craftsmen with help from county crafts specialists.

Classes in rag-doll manufacture will be taught in Watauga County by Mrs. Lena Townsend of Valle Crucis, whose needlework ingenuity started the rag-doll craze in summer, 1965. "It takes me two days to make a doll," said Mrs. Townsend, who realizes $3 profit on the wholesale $5 price of a rag-doll.

"But if it wasn't for the crafts program, we wouldn't have any income in the winter," Mrs. Townsend added. Her husband Donald, who helps by stuffing the dolls with cotton, has a seasonal job and does some farming.

Three dollars for two days' work may seem unimportant, but it can mean protection against starvation. One elderly craftsman told an interviewer that his yearly income before the crafts program began averaged $160. Another, Wilce Adkins of

Ramseytown in Yancey County, who makes musical instruments, said: "If you can't make big money, I say make little money. It all helps." Adkins is 81 and has a heart condition requiring constant medical treatment.

Adkins' wife, Lulie, makes rag dolls and quilts. "We get $45 a month social security and $21 welfare," she said, "but that just pays the medical bills." For additional income, Mrs. Adkins sometimes sews until midnight, then begins again at 5 a.m.

Of the 204 craftsmen in WAMY's records for last quarter, 71 are heads of families. Only 42 receive public assistance, though 140 are classified below the "poverty line" ($3,000 annual income for a family of four) and the rest barely above it. Also, 139 are over age 45, and cannot get a steady job in an area in which industry has but recently supplanted farming as the most dependable source of income. Many of the rest are too ill to work regularly, and some are widowed heads of households with dependent children.

The average WAMY craftsman last year increased his income by $9 per month through the crafts program—and with the new Hearthside Crafts Association, hopes are high that this year's profits will be greater.

By Theodore M. Berry, Director,
Community Action Programs, OEO

PERSPECTIVES

the need for volunteer education

There are more than 100,000 unpaid volunteers working with Community Action Agencies in these United States. That figure sounds impressive until you compare it with the ever-increasing needs of the more than 29 million potential clients of CAAs.

While it is true that an excellent relationship has been established by the national office of OEO/CAP with almost every major volunteer organization in America, and that these organizations have made invaluable contributions in manpower to our programs, it is also true that a working relationship has not been established with enough local individuals and local community groups.

Why? Many reasons could be cited, but the most obvious, in my opinion, is the lack of concerted community education as to the aim and purposes of local CAAs. I have been particularly aware of the almost complete ignorance on the part of many well-meaning persons as to ways and means of becoming part of their local CAA.

The CAA is not a closed-door agency. Yet many people are unaware that volunteers are needed continually to expand and broaden the scope of CAA programs and services.

Many potential volunteers are also unaware that the CAA offers orientation and training which can enhance the value of volunteer contribution.

In my opinion we must enlist local media—local radio, newspapers, billboard and transit—advertising people—in a straight forward program designed to recruit volunteers from all walks of life throughout the community.

Through this kind of concerted effort we will do more than just realize a larger volunteer force, we will also engage the entire community in CAA programming and that—in major part—is one of the most significant aims of the CAA.

One of the most striking examples of individual volunteerism was recently reported from Texas where Mrs. Sybil Kessler, Program Coordinator for the Palo Pinto Community Action Agency, Mineral Wells, was presented the "Outstanding Volunteer of the Year" award by the Texas Social Welfare Association. Mrs. Kessler is a non-salaried volunteer member of the CAA and has been a key worker in the neighborhood center operation, family planning clinic, pre-school and other programs.

Not every volunteer can be expected to perform as well as Mrs. Kessler, but there are certainly people in every community where a Community Action Agency operates, whether urban or rural, who want to give service and who would be important assets to a CAA.

Miss Helaine Todd, a specialist on aging with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, put her finger on the heart of the matter when she said during a recent meeting of the Conference on Community Services:

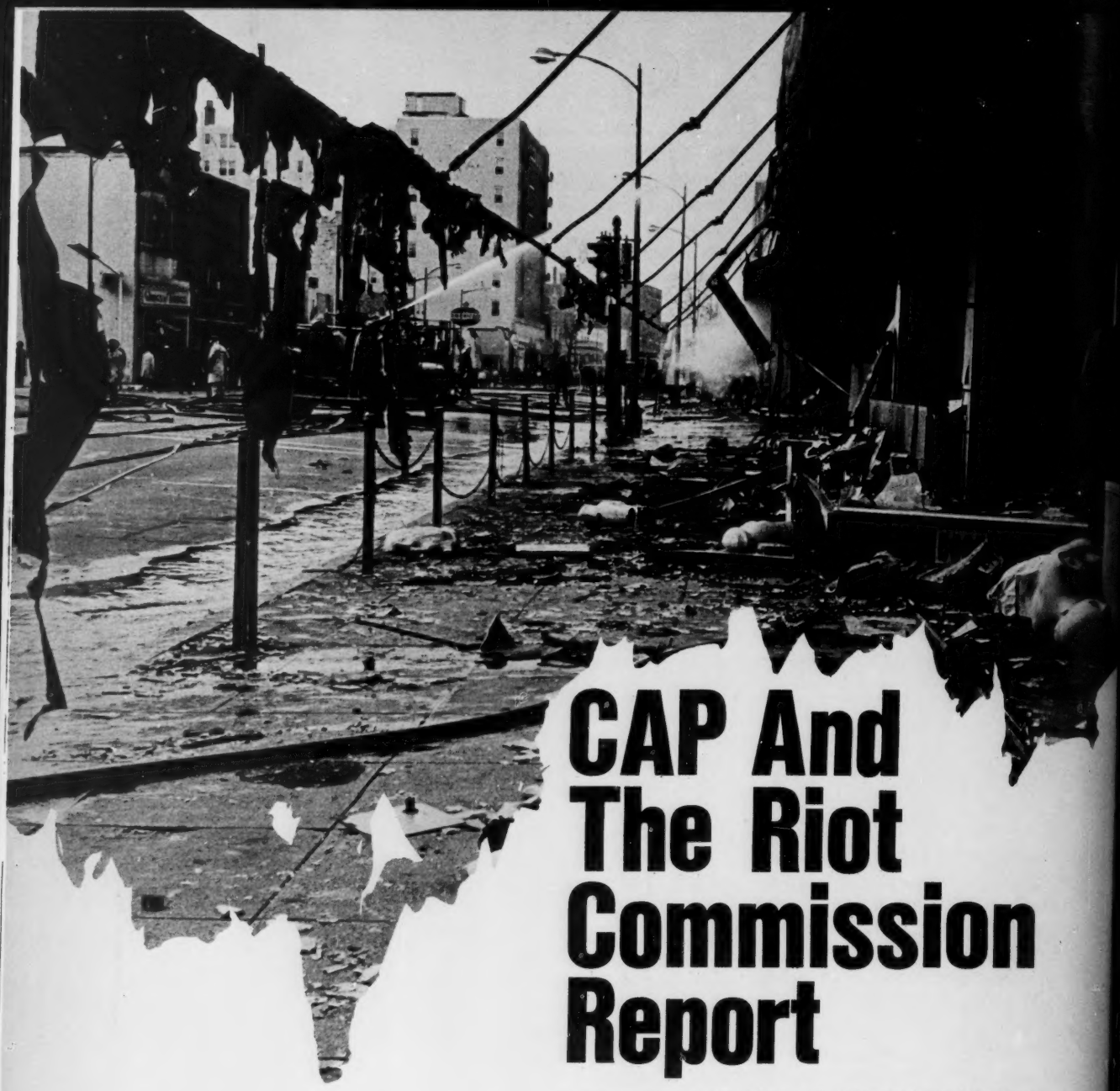
"We say only the poor can understand the poor, but what we need to learn is to value other human beings and we can open the doors of communication so any volunteer can work with the poor."

My experience leads me to believe that perhaps not every volunteer can in fact work with the poor, because not everyone understands the concept of having the poor do for themselves, rather than doing for them. However, I firmly believe that there are many prospective volunteers, who are sympathetic to this concept and who would be valuable allies on the side of a CAA, if only their services were sought.

There are many activities in which volunteers could be utilized including the staffing of neighborhood centers, teaching or managing tutorial programs, teaching or managing adult education or equivalency courses, community organization, survey work, cultural enrichment programs, providing transportation on business, etc.

Personal visits or contacts by some CAA worker—who might be a volunteer—are the most effective in recruitment efforts, although it is important that all methods of communication be used—newspapers, radio, television, and other publications—to underscore the need for volunteers. Whatever method is used, it is of vital importance that the services of the volunteer be constructively utilized. There is nothing quite as frustrating to someone who wants to help, than to find that he or she has been assigned to a magnificently meaningless task.

Volunteers will need training and supervision, but the services that they can provide, if correctly utilized, will outweigh whatever efforts are involved on the part of CAA personnel.



CAP And The Riot Commission Report

Programs of the Office of Economic Opportunity were endorsed in the REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMISSION ON CIVIL DISORDERS.

No OEO-CAP programs were condemned. The Commission recommended that most on-going programs be expanded; that the effort now underway is inadequate.

Specifically, the Report praised several CAP programs, among them:

LEGAL SERVICES: "The Legal Services Program . . . has made a good beginning in providing legal as-

sistance to the poor. Its present level of effort should be substantially expanded through increased private and public funding." **(p. 293*)**

UPWARD BOUND: "The Upward Bound program . . . has been effective. Of the 23,000 students covered in 1967 (52% of whom were Negro), 83% went on to college. However, the size of the program is far short of the need. Estimates indicate that some 600,000 poverty-area students could usefully be helped. We believe that the Upward Bound concept is sound and recommend that it be substantially expanded." **(p. 452)**

HEAD START: "Early childhood education is the very heart of the effort to reconstruct the environment which incapacitates disadvantaged children educationally, even before they enter the school system. Comprehensive preschool programs are essential to overcome the early language deprivation and conceptual disabilities of these children . . . We believe that the time has come to build on the proven success of Head Start and other preschool programs . . . for this purpose, the Office of Economic Opportunity should receive substantially increased funds." **(p. 446)**

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION: "The Adult Basic Education Program is a sound instrument for implementing an intensive literacy program. By affording both the public schools and community-based organizations, the opportunity to conduct literacy projects, this program provides desired flexibility. It should be strengthened and expanded to make a major impact on illiteracy." **(p. 449)**

FAMILY PLANNING: "Social workers have found that many women in poverty areas would like to limit the size of their families and are simply unaware of existing birth control methods, or do not have such methods available to them. Governments at all levels—and particularly the federal—should underwrite broader programs to provide family-planning information and devices to those who desire them. Through such programs, the Commission believes that a significant contribution can be made to breaking the cycle of poverty and dependency." **(p. 465)**

DAY-CARE CENTERS FOR CHILDREN: "The 1967 amendments provide funds for the first time for day-care programs for children of working mothers. Further expansion is desirable to make centers an effective means of enabling welfare recipients to take advantage of training and employment opportunities. Efforts should be made to insure that centers are open in the evening and that home education features are built into center programs." **(p. 463)**

NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS: "The Neighborhood Youth Corps and the College Work-Study Program should be expanded and reoriented" to enable more of them to become tutors for elementary school children. In the Homework Helper Program in New York City, pupils in the fourth through sixth grades were tutored after school by senior high school students under supervision from a master teacher. The program had significant educational impact on both the students and the tutors. "The NYC and College Work-Study Program provide the tools for reproducing this program in every major city in the country. In some cities NYC students are already working in these schools. But in many, NYC job assignments are far less stimulating . . . it "should be expanded and reoriented for this purpose." **(p. 448)**

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM: (in general) "One of the most difficult and controversial problems we have encountered relates to ghetto demands for 'self-determination' or 'community control'. To a limited extent, this concept was made a matter of national policy in the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 . . . **(p. 297)**

"In the three years since the beginning of the War on Poverty, the effort to put 'maximum feasible participation' into effect has met with both success and failure . . . Despite its problems, we believe that meaningful community participation and a substantial measure of involvement in program development is an essential strategy for city government. The democratic values which it advances—providing a stake in the social system, improving the accountability of public officials—as well as the pragmatic benefits which it provides far outweigh these costs . . .

"The involvement of the ghetto community in the planning and operation of development programs need not be confined to the public arena. There is great potential in private community development corporations which can emerge from a combined public-private sponsorship and perform mixed functions for the community, including sponsorship of locally owned businesses.

"A most promising approach is the neighborhood membership corporation, the first of which was established in Columbus, Ohio, in 1965—the East Central Citizens Organization (ECCO), under an OEO grant. Functioning as a town meeting, its members include all of the residents of a defined ghetto neighborhood (8,150 people). Its activities encompass daycare centers, credit unions, legal and medical services, newspapers, restaurants and business enterprises . . . The opportunity that (it) offers to develop stable community leadership structures and constructive involvement should not be allowed to fail for lack of . . . support." **(p. 298)**

"The Commission recommends that local governments:

Expand opportunities for ghetto residents to participate in the formulation of public policy and the implementation of programs affecting them through improved political representation, *creation of institutional channels for community action,* expansion of legal services, and legislative hearings on ghetto problems."

MULTI-SERVICE CENTERS: "Frequently, services vital to the ghetto resident—job placement and location, health care, legal assistance—are inaccessible because they are located at considerable distance from the ghetto, a distance often made greater by the lack of efficient public transportation. This problem is compounded by the fact that many key service institutions are fragmented, requiring those seeking assistance to pursue it at various locations scattered throughout a large urban area.

"To meet this need, the Office of Economic Opportunity has funded over 700 multi-service centers in ghetto areas throughout the country since 1964. Many of these have been small storefront operations housing OEO-funded services. Some, as in Detroit, have had a fairly wide range of services and have served a large number of families.

"The principal problem has been that most centers have not been comprehensive enough. They rarely include traditional city and state agency services. Many relevant federal programs seldom are located in the same center. . . . The experience thus far indicates the need for more effective coordination of federal programs at the national and regional levels. . . . We recommend increased federal funding for comprehensive centers. . . ."
(p. 295)

OEO ROLE IN RIOTS

ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS—"In 21 of the 24 disturbances surveyed discussion or negotiation occurred during the disturbances. These took the form of relatively formal meetings between government officials and Negroes during which grievances and issues were discussed and means were sought to restore order. . . . *Employees of community action agencies occasionally participated, either as intermediaries or as participants. In some cases they provided the meeting place."*
(p. 126)

COUNTER-RIOTERS—"In all but six of the disorders, Negro private citizens were on the streets attempting to restore order primarily by means of persuasion. . . . *Counter-rioters generally included young men, ministers, community action agency and other anti-poverty workers and well-known ghetto residents.* . . . . How effective the counter-rioters were is, again, difficult to estimate. Authorities in several cities indicated that they believed they were helpful." **(p. 127)**

OEO FUNDING IN RIOT CITIES

"What was the pattern of governmental effort to relieve ghetto conditions and respond to the needs in the cities which experienced disorders in 1967?"
(p. 140)

"We conclude that:

"While these three cities (Detroit, Newark and New Haven) received substantial amounts of Federal funds in 1967 for manpower, education, housing, welfare and community action programs *the number of persons assisted by those programs in almost all cases constituted only a fraction of those in need.*

"In at least 11 of the 15 programs examined (five programs in each of the three cities), the number of people assisted in 1967 was less than half of those in need.

"In one of the 15 programs the percentage rose as high as 72%.

"The median is 33%.

"In Detroit, the number of persons reached by $12.6 million in community action funds in 1967 was only about *30%* of the number of poor persons. Federal funding of these programs averaged approximately $35 for each poor person. In Newark, the number of poor persons reached by $1.9 million was about *44%*. Federal funding of these programs averaged approximately $21 for each poor person. In New Haven, the number reached by $2.3 million was approximately *42%*. Federal funding averaged $72 for each poor person." **(p. 143)**

NUMBER OF POOR HELPED BY OEO PROGRAMS IN EACH OF THE THREE CITIES:

"*Detroit*—During Fiscal Year 1967, Federal funds made available for community action programs, excepting manpower and Head Start, totalled $12,576,923. During that period the CAA estimated that these programs reached approximately 110,000 low-income persons." **(p. 192)**

Newark—During Fiscal Year 1967, Federal funds made available for community action programs, excepting manpower and Head Start, totalled $1,901,130. During that period the CAA estimates that these programs reached approximately 39,796 low-income persons." **(p. 195)**

New Haven—Federal funds made available for community action programs, excepting manpower and Head Start, during Fiscal Year 1967, totalled $2,251,-042. During that period the CAA estimates that these programs reached 13,000 low-income persons." **(p. 195)**

The Commission recommended *more funding* for *other OEO activities:*

New Haven—Federal funds made available for "The Office of Economic Opportunity assists in police-community relations activities. We commend and endorse these efforts. But we believe more Federal financial assistance is needed." **(p. 336)**

"Some movement toward enrichment can be found in efforts to encourage industries to locate plants in central cities, in increased Federal expenditures for education, *in the important concepts embodied in the 'War on Poverty,'* and in the Model Cities Program. But so far congressional appropriations for even present Federal programs have been so small that they fall short of effective enrichment." **(p. 396)**

The Commission recommended *improved program coordination.*

"The new social development legislation has put great strain upon obsolescent machinery and administrative practices at all levels of government. It has loaded new work on Federal departments. . . . In recent years serious efforts have been made to improve program coordination. . . . Departments have been given responsibility to lead others in areas within their particular competence—OEO, in the poverty field, HUD in Model Cities. Yet, despite these and other efforts, the Federal Government has not yet been able to join talent, funds and programs for concentrated impact in the field. . . . *There is a clear and compelling requirement for better coordination of federally funded programs,* particularly those designed to benefit the residents of the inner city." **(p. 412)**

"The direct reimbursement system currently used in on-the-job training programs should be expanded and the existing programs should be consolidated under a single administration. These programs include the Manpower Development and Training Act and the new Work Training in Industry components of the Neighborhood Youth Corps, New Careers and Special Impact programs." **(p. 422)**

"Special neighborhood welfare contact and diagnostic centers. Centers to provide the full complement of welfare services should be combined into the multi-purpose neighborhood service facilities being developed by the OEO and HUD. . . ." **(p. 465)**

"Job development and placement in private industry is critical to our proposed strategies, and is now handled separately by a variety of agencies and programs: the Manpower Development and Training Act program, the vocational education programs, the Vocational Rehabilitation program, *the Job Corps,* and, recently, the Neighborhood Youth Corps and several adult work experience and training programs. All seek to place trainees with private employers, sometimes with and sometimes without assistance, through a wide variety of local agencies, as well as through the Employment Service, *community action agencies* and others. A single cooperative national effort should be undertaken with the assistance of business, labor and industrial leaders at national, regional and local levels. . . ." **(p. 418)**

To measure the present attitudes of people in the riot **(p. 143)** cities as precisely as possible, the Commission is sponsoring attitude surveys, but "in the interim we have attempted to draw some tentative conclusions based upon our own investigations and the more than 1200 interviews which we conducted relatively soon after the disorders . . . Significant grievances concerning Federal programs were expressed in large majority of the 20 cities, but appeared to be one of the most serious complaints in only one.

"Criticism of the Federal anti-poverty programs focused on insufficient participation by the poor, lack of continuity, and inadequate funding. Other significant grievances involved urban renewal, insufficient community participation in planning and decision-making, and inadequate employment programs." **(p. 145)**

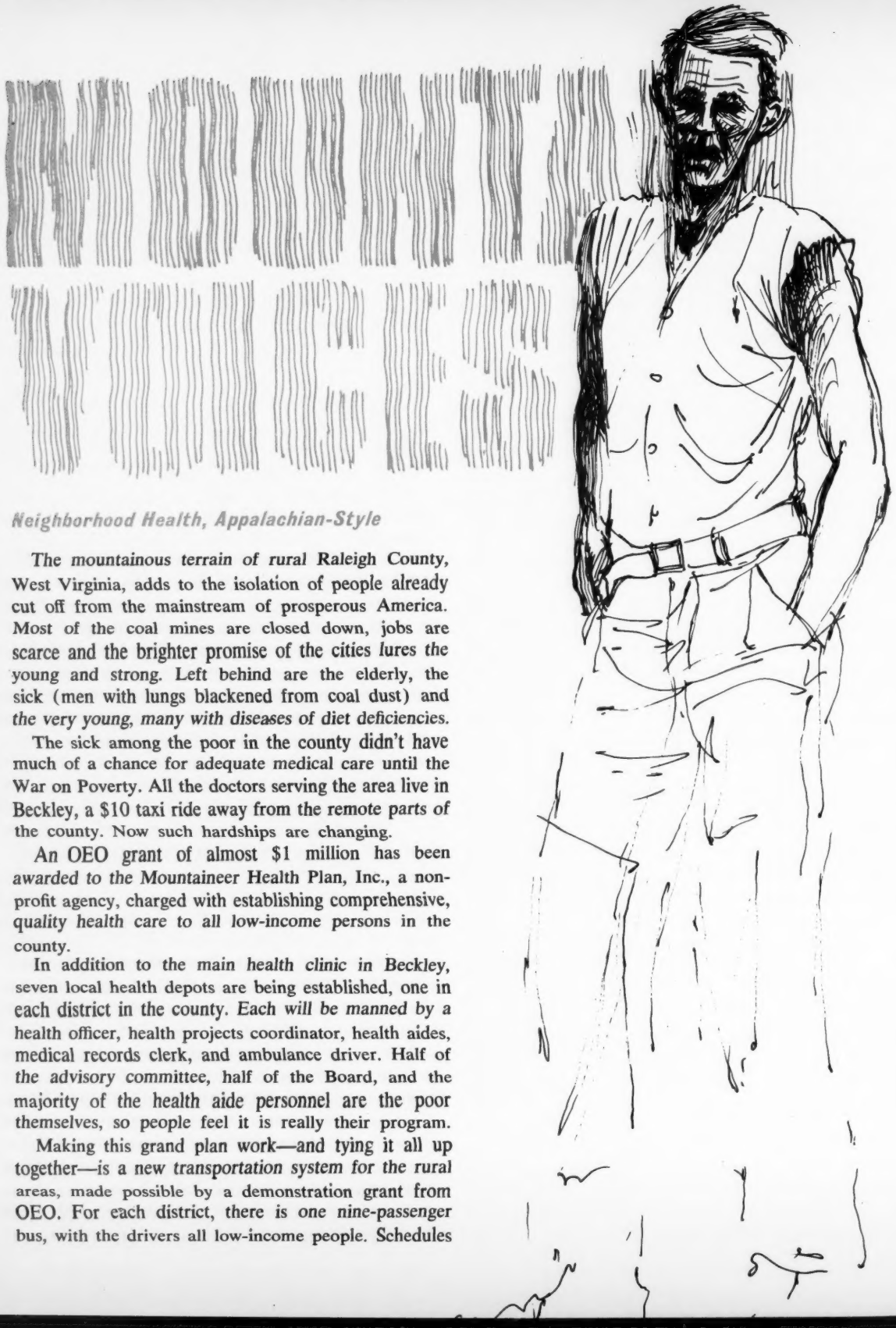
THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS

"Much has been accomplished in recent years to formulate new directions for national policy and new channels for national emergency. . . . Hence, few of our program suggestions are entirely novel. . . . All this serves to underscore our basic conclusion: the need is not so much for the government to design new programs as it is for the nation to generate new will. . . ." **(p. 412)**

—DEBORAH WAGER and LINDA MORGAN,

OEO PUBLIC AFFAIRS

*** These pages refer to the Bantam Books edition of "Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders," the advance copy of the Commission's report.**



Neighborhood Health, Appalachian-Style

The mountainous terrain of rural Raleigh County, West Virginia, adds to the isolation of people already cut off from the mainstream of prosperous America. Most of the coal mines are closed down, jobs are scarce and the brighter promise of the cities lures the young and strong. Left behind are the elderly, the sick (men with lungs blackened from coal dust) and the very young, many with diseases of diet deficiencies.

The sick among the poor in the county didn't have much of a chance for adequate medical care until the War on Poverty. All the doctors serving the area live in Beckley, a $10 taxi ride away from the remote parts of the county. Now such hardships are changing.

An OEO grant of almost $1 million has been awarded to the Mountaineer Health Plan, Inc., a non-profit agency, charged with establishing comprehensive, quality health care to all low-income persons in the county.

In addition to the main health clinic in Beckley, seven local health depots are being established, one in each district in the county. Each will be manned by a health officer, health projects coordinator, health aides, medical records clerk, and ambulance driver. Half of the advisory committee, half of the Board, and the majority of the health aide personnel are the poor themselves, so people feel it is really their program.

Making this grand plan work—and tying it all up together—is a new transportation system for the rural areas, made possible by a demonstration grant from OEO. For each district, there is one nine-passenger bus, with the drivers all low-income people. Schedules

have been set up to get the isolated people to Beckley to the clinic, to the welfare, Social Security and Employment offices, as well as to community action meetings and to get food stamps.

Director of the new health program is Dr. Sherl Winter, Chief of Pediatrics and Head of the Outpatient Clinic in Beckley Memorial Hospital.

A West Virginia doctor talks about getting started

Q: Dr. Winter, how did you receive the idea of a neighborhood health center? This is a new kind of care for the poor of America, isn't it?

A: I knew the need for it here because I came down as a pediatrician 12 years ago with the United Mine Workers when their hospital opened here. So I got to see first hand before very long that many of these people weren't taken care of medically.

We had only proprietary, private hospitals then. There was no community hospital. There was no place you could send a poor person. And there was no Red Feather program. There was *nothing*. Many times we'd see children in our pediatric clinic, and no place, no hospital would take them. You'd have to battle and fight, and eventually, or most of the time, the UMW (United Mine Workers) Hospital would accept them, but with reluctance—because this was *also* a private hospital and they weren't being paid to take them. The only people that got care were people on public assistance programs. But many of these people were *not* on public assistance, so they didn't get any medical care. Actually, they didn't know what medical care was.

I can remember the time when we set up our immunization well-baby clinics in the hospital over here, and we were nine months trying to get this started, because these people weren't interested in it. They didn't know what it was, and after we did get organized, and could explain to these people—we'd catch them before they delivered their babies—we'd indoctrinate them that we had a well-baby clinic and an immunization clinic. And we made an appointment for them to come back, and that is when they got started.

Q: What were the prevalent sicknesses among the children? Was it malnutrition or tuberculosis or what?

A: There were many illnesses that I didn't see very much elsewhere. One of them was intestinal parasites. We would get these children and we set up a rule in the hosiptal that we would do three stools on every patient admitted, and we found that between 30 and 40 percent of every child had parasites. And some of them had not only one type of worm, they'd have three types.

We had a lot of malnutrition. We had a lot of metabolic diseases, and I don't know what this is due to. Never could explain it. We wondered whether it was intermarriage. We saw things here that I had never seen in older children. They got into calcium deficiencies and convulsions, and these children that we followed and the older children, 10-12 year groups that had those things, died. If we'd picked those up, which any pediatrician could recognize in the first year, with a corrected diet you wouldn't have had it.

There was tuberculosis—much tuberculosis. We'd get a child with positive tubercular reaction, we'd check into it and call the Tuberculosis Association, and they'd say, "we can't do anything about this." Then we'd call the Health Department and they'd say, "we know the whole family has tuberculosis." Often the father would come to the sanitorium during the week, go home weekends, and reinfect his children.

Everyone said we can't do anything about it, there is a law that we probably could force them, but we're not going to do anything about this. This is the kind of thing we ran into.

This (the Neighborhood Health Center) is the right program—it has to be! In addition to treating people, the health program includes health education for these people out in the rural areas. They've never been trained in sanitation, in public health, in preventive medicine. This is one part of the program, and the other is training these rural people for jobs in the health field. This is a three part program, and this is general education.

Our program, if you notice in our proposal, is set up so that in the rural areas anybody can have a part in health programs. They might not be eligible for medical care, but they could get preventive medicine training and education in the districts. A big part of this program is health education, which we never had before.

We hope to have a nurse or an LPN (local practical nurse) in each district, and then we have our health aides, a minimum of two in each district, an environmental aide, and a homemaker in each district, until we know more about what we're going to run into. We may need less in some districts and more in others. This is going to depend on the population, on the amount of illnesses in these areas.

The other thing in the program that's related to medicine in this county, is transportation. You would be surprised at how these people do not get transportation when they're sick. If they don't have a car they must pay for transportation from a neighbor. These people don't have the money. As a result they don't come into the doctor's. Heck, there was never any

thought of preventive medicine to these people. Never any thought of anything but take care of the illnesses when they come up.

Q: You have the Medical Association behind you on this, don't you, Dr. Winter?

A: Oh, yes. I don't think I would have gone into a thing like this if I hadn't. It would have been an impossible situation in a community like this.

It's unique that we have 604 square miles in Raleigh County and every doctor is in the city of Beckley. You don't have any of them out in the rural areas.

Since we've been funded we've had a few doctors come in and complain. For example: they'd say, 'Now I've been taking care of public assistance patients at $1.50. Since you people are going to pay the usual customary fee, why shouldn't I have the privilege of taking care of these people now?' We have some problems. There's no question about that. We have problems now, but you won't have the problems I think that you'd have if the medical society wasn't part of it.

Oh, we'll get objections about OEO health programs from the people that pay income taxes. We are going to get objections from doctors when we have to make the decision of where to send patients. But we are going to try to rotate these people with good physicians.

In general, there will be no medical care in the districts, just in the main clinic.

Our program is going to family physicians and one or two pediatricians. For everything except obstetrics, doctors will work in the clinic, and then the rest, on specialized services, will be sent out in the area. We have excellent specialized services. Actually most of the doctors here are specialized. Not very many of them are general practitioners. The medical society has about 75 members in all.

The Poor Define Community Action

"I believe CAP is like religion . . . it grows on you."

Real Community Action—as it was meant to be—is at work in Raleigh County, West Virginia, and there is a religious conviction about it.

The rural folk in Raleigh County were previously so isolated that no meeting places, no community centers existed; families, miles apart, had no contact with others in the "same boat."

Now that is changed, for the hills are alive with meetings. Night after night, cars and trucks jam the area surrounding the simple frame buildings where important community events are being discussed. This new "town hall" spirit resulted in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act hot lunch program, which gives hot meals during school hours to students not able to buy lunch. ESEA was helped to passage by the efforts of the Community Action Agency, as was a new law against strip mining, which has ruined the landscape and polluted Raleigh County streams.

Both of these projects gave people the sweet taste of success, and has whetted their appetites for more community progress.

Community Action is now supporting a program to help people learn to produce and sell honey, a crop well suited to agricultural conditions in the county, and a means of increasing their incomes. And of course, the $1 million grant for the Health Center and the demonstration transportation project to coordinate all such activities, is a real testament to progress.

The democracy of the old New England town meeting has been transferred seemingly intact to rural Raleigh County; the poor feel they are part of an important adventure. People who never spoke to each other now greet their "neighbors" in a festive mood. There has been a great awakening here—a feeling that "we're all in this together" and that group spirit and energies will succeed where an individual cannot.

Here are tape recorded portions of a recent Raleigh County CAA meeting held in a little wooden schoolhouse on the edge of a mining camp.

It was dusk, and the slow but persistent rain made the lawn a sea of mud. The bad roads were worse than usual but the independent mountain people came anyway. Both sexes, both races, all ages, mingled freely. What does Community Action mean to these people? Here's how they tell it:

Q: Could somebody talk about what Community Action has done for you? What were you doing before, personally? Not just financially, the whole business. What were you doing before

1st Woman: Nothin'.

Q: Nothing? Now what are you doing? What's Community Action done for you?

1st Woman: I'm Katharine Gurrant from Winding Gulf. I've been working on the Head Start committee since it first came up, and I'm still on it. I have met more people and it has brought me closer to people, because in Winding Gulf, even as small as it is, most people there I didn't even know, didn't even know their names.

Q: And you weren't doing anything before?

Mrs. Gurrant: I had been working in the hospital. But I was just sitting at home, that's all.

Q: How many kids do you have?

Mrs. Gurrant: I have two.

Q: And now you're working on the Head Start Committee. This doesn't mean that it's bringing more money into your pocket?

Mrs. Gurrant: No, I'm just working for the committee as a volunteer.

Q: And this is what you say community action means for you. Brought you closer to people.

Mrs. Gurrant: I'll put it to you like this, if it hadn't been for Community Action, do you think that I'd be sitting here talking to you? I wouldn't. To me it has brought the races more close together. Because—I mean we all have children in Head Start. That's brought more people closer together. One thing our Committee president Robert told us 'you all might hate each other. But in this program you're all going to have to work together to get what you want.' You've got to work together, because if you don't work together, you're just going to fall. You love each other while you're workin'; when you all begin to hate each other again means we have to find something else to work on again.

VOICE: My name is Fred E. Henderson. And I'm a member of the Red Brush community center.

Community Action really means a lot to me. I think that it was started under President John Kennedy. I believe the movement kind of got started and was a reality under Lyndon B. Johnson. And the people that were sent from Washington, the VISTAs comin' to our communities—I think that they were wonderful, because we really just weren't doing anything toward helping the poorer people.

VOICE: I'm concerned about disabled miners in Raleigh County. Some of them got families of children. And their welfare card has been repossessed from 'em, and they've been pushed out of the union and out of the coal mines, to where they are not gettin' their welfare pension, which is appropriated by the coal operators on anywhere from 10 to 40% ton on royalty that was paid for each and every individual ton of coal that's been mined. It started out at 10%, at royalty, and went to 40%.

It's 40% yet today that's being paid.

And the coal companies appropriated this money for the benefit of disabled miners and disabled miners families. But many have been pushed out and denied this program, and now there's 70,000 of them in America that cannot get their welfare pensions.

VOICE: My name is Henry Gullis, and I live at Eccles. I'm one of these disabled coal miners he was mentioning.

The reason I've become a member of Raleigh County Community Action, is it was a VISTA come to my house. And he told me all about it, and I began to get into it. I was in and out of it all the time, on account of my wife. She couldn't stand for me to be away from home. (Laughter.)

GULLIS: Now she's in Community Action workin', so I'm drafted in now, full-time. And am I happy. And I've been a resident of Raleigh County for 32 years. And there's a lot of things that I thought I knowed about, until I went to Sand Lake. We went there today, and I saw a one-room school. There's 42 pupils in this school, from first to the sixth grade.

There's not a bathroom in it. There's no facilities whatsoever. Heating facilities—just an old coal stove. And no running water. And I thought I knowed Raleigh County until I went down there. But I see now they really need Community Action there and they don't know what it is.

This same VISTA come to me—he spent three months in Sand Lake trying to help them people. But they won't listen. But I believe we'll gradually get 'em to listen to what Community Action can do. And I believe Community Action is like religion—it grows on ya if you get in it deep enough. And I'm a little bit prejudiced, I guess, about education. I think that's the most important thing about it. Because I wasn't no drop out in school, I was *pushed* out, just like them people in Sand Lake.

When you get big enough to realize that you're ashamed of yourself, you don't want to go amongst people. And these kids, when they get to the seventh grade, they begin to realize they haven't got no clothes. They haven't got no food. They don't want to go to school. And they don't drop out—the government here in West Virginia, the agencies push them out of school. That's what happens. There ain't no drop-outs here. They ain't no drop-outs nowhere in the United States. They're pushed out. And that's what I'd like to get across to the people.

I know I'd a never quit school if I wasn't pushed out. My daddy worked in the coal mines, and he didn't make too much money. He had a family of six of us. And I think many and many a day he went all day and didn't make two dollars when I was goin' to school. And a lot of days he didn't get to work. And I remember when the commodity wagon run, you was lucky if you got a bag of white beans off it. Since the food stamps come in, the people do live a little bit better. This Aid to Dependent Children, it came in, it helps a little.

But the people's way behind it here in West Virginia in education, and they're gonna be behind until there's something done about it. I mean there's going to have to be something done to make sure that the government's pouring this money in here—that it gets to the people. It's not a gettin' in here. It gets up there to the leaders and they spend it the way they want to. They don' even consult us people to see what we need or what we want out of it. And I think it's time that we found out what they're spendin' the money for and get it spent for what we want it for, not what they want it spent for.

Why would they build a brand-new Woodrow Wilson high school over yonder for them kids, and let them

down yonder stay down in the dumps when they already had a schoolhouse for them? There's not even a road in there. The man told me it took two years—they've cindered that road twice in two years and them kids don't get out of there for weeks at a time in the winter to go to school.

And another thing. They don't even have a shelter for the kids to wait on the bus. If it's a-rainin' they've got to stand along the road, and if they miss the bus it goes on. I didn't know there was a place in Raleigh County like that. I thought I knowed Sand Lake. And I been here 32 years. And I went over there today and I saw it.

They call them outlaws on Sand Lake. No *wonder* they're outlaws. They raised 'em to be outlaws. They're gonna be outlaws unless something is done about it. And I think them people is just as human as I am.

There ain't no wonder that the people are educationally deprived in Raleigh County and in West Virginia. The money that the Federal government has poured in here—it's not used for the purpose it ought to be used for.

VOICE: My name's Pete and I think Community Action is one of the best things that was ever done in the state of West Virginia. We have 75 members in

our community center. And we're proud of 'em, and I got 10 more last week, so I'm proud of them. And this medical program is wonderful. I done had several people wantin' to go to different places to see about this health program. And I've carried 'em. And I'll continue to carry 'em. Anything I can do to help out, regardless of where it is, or when it is. Any time of the day. Any time of the night. I'm willin' to go.

I didn't like Community Action when it first come out. Didn't want no part of it. But my wife went in it. My mother-in-law went in it. And when they went in it, they got me started. Then after they got me in it, I couldn't get out of it. I'm just like the old lady said down there, I've got it in my bones and it won't come out. So I'm gonna keep it here.

VOICE: I'm James Kirby from Eccles, W. Va. And I have been a summer Appalachian Volunteer and I was proud to be that summer AV. And the Community Action program in Raleigh County—I say we needed it. Not last year or last two years—we needed it 25 years ago. And I will say, for as long as it's been here, it's sure been wonderful to Raleigh County. And I'm really proud of one thing we got started—the ESEA program for the hot lunches in the schools. We got a $21,000 hot lunch for poor kids in the schools. And there was about four of us that really went strongly for the ESEA. And believe me, I was one of them that was strong. There was Noel Snuffer, myself, and Frank Harris, he was a VISTA, and Miss Thouny. And we fought awful hard for ESEA, and believe me, we got our ESEA, and hot lunches, and it's——

VOICE: It's in there to stay?

VOICE: Well, we hope it's in there to stay and we hope that the people and we hope that we can get help to see that the money that we got goes for—where it belongs: to the poor people.

VOICE: I think you've got a problem, a little bit of a problem there.

KIRBY: We got $21,000 for the hot lunches——

2nd WOMAN: These programs have been on since 1964 and when did we find it out? I don't know about you folks, but I found it out last winter when I saw a crowd gathered at one of my neighbor's house and I thought, well, what's goin' on down there? And directly somebody come up and said come down. And when I went down a bunch of VISTAs was down there all organizing community action, talking about Head-start. And believe me once you get in it, you can't get out.

VOICE: Amen, sister!

2nd WOMAN: —Poor people pays more tax than the rich people does. They found that since the Community Action came into Raleigh County. That's a great thing for us to have learned.

3rd MAN: And give the OEO people credit for comin' in and tellin' us about Community Action. I been knowin' about this tax situation for years. But there wasn't nothin' we could do about it. The force of one man don't mean much. But with Community Action the voice of many people means a whole lot. I volunteered on the tax commission, the last meeting on Clear Fork. So I'll go down, I guess, and be at the State House next legislature on some of the tax moves. And I'm certainly proud of being a member of the groups that goes down there. Believe me——

2nd MAN: Believe me, lobbyin' in the State House, as you call it, you can get places. That's where the ESEA hot lunch money started at. Lobby in the State House. The strip mining got passed.

Q: Is there a strip mining law now?

2nd MAN: Yes. The strip mining law that went into the legislature that the Governor's Task Force of Surface Mining introduced last January went through the legislature, due to people coming and telling their stories, despite all that the Coal Association could do, the bill came out of the legislature stronger than it went in. This is considered to be the strongest law in the United States now.

VOICE: What does it specifically say? Does it completely outlaw strip mining?

2nd MAN: It doesn't outlaw it, but it puts restrictions on how the operation can be run, and it sets pretty good rules for replanning and grading the area so that the flood conditions like Mr. Kincaid was talking about can't exist. And it also gives—I don't think any other state has this—it gives the Director of Natural Resources the right to deny a permit if the stripping operation is going to do something like it did on Tully's Fork, it's going to damage roads or streams or peoples' houses and farms.

VOICE: I think that one thing that we all got from Community Action is something to hope for. And the VISTAs helped.

Q: The VISTAs?

VOICE: We wouldn't have had the knowledge of how to go about something like this if it hadn't been for them. And when some of them VISTAs come in and you're just a high school graduate, never been around people like them—and they come in and sit down and talk to you and they can tell you what you can get. You can get anything for your community if you want it. If you and the people get together and do it, you can get it. And then when you see that progress —that makes you feel good.

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